Gloria orders release of 2 Indon terror suspects

STORY ON PAGE A2

Smoking? It's a girl

CHAIN SMOKER ANG MOTHER MO, 'NO?
PAANO MO NALAMAN?

LONDON—Couples are more likely to have a female baby than a male if either of the partners smoked heavily while they tried to conceive.

Normally, boys have a slight edge over girls, with almost

SMOKING/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Hayden Christensen is Hollywood's new golden boy
- Sexy Joyce a kid at heart
- Donita Rose longs for an edgy image

CHRISTENSEN

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, April 20, 2002 ★ 66 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 131 P15

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76% of Pinoys back US troops, says SWS

Gloria approves fielding of more GIs in Basilan

VAL HANDUMON

PARTY time with deposed President Estrada but his supporters are kept away by the police from the gates of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where their idol has been detained for nearly a year and where he celebrates his 65th birthday on Friday without his usual cast of thousands.

By Juliet L. Javellana, Dona Pazzibugan and Martin P. Marfil

FILIPINOS are highly supportive of US military presence in the country, with a majority saying that US soldiers should stay in combat zones as long as necessary, according to results of a nationwide survey conducted last month.

The Social Weather Stations said yesterday that 76 percent of 1,200 respondents approve of the US soldiers going to combat zones like Basilan, while 60 percent said the Americans should stay in those areas for as long as needed.

Backed by a receptive public, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed yesterday an order allowing the deployment of additional US soldiers in Basilan where troops are hunting down Abu Sayyaf bandits holding an American couple.

Ms Macapagal's order will allow 280 Navy engineers and 60 US Marines waiting off the Philippine coast the past few days to go ashore.

The Navy engineers, who left Okinawa last week, will build an aircraft landing strip, pave roads, construct water systems and do other civil projects in Basilan.

They will join the 660 US troops, including 160 Green Berets, who were sent to Zamboanga and Basilan in January to train Filipino soldiers to crush the Abu Sayyaf, local allies of the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr., who had earlier balked at tapping more US troops, recommended the

76%/A16

Talks fail; Nativity church siege continues

BETHLEHEM—Israel and the Palestinians blamed each other on Thursday for the cancellation of talks to end an 18-day-old armed standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

Gunfire and the explosions of stun grenades were heard Thursday near the church, one of Christianity's holiest shrines, and each side accused the other of starting the shooting. There was no word of casualties.

The Palestinians said they wanted clergymen to attend the talks planned for Thursday and canceled it after Israel refused to allow a third party to participate.

Israel accused the Palestinians of seeking political gain from the plight of around 50 monks, nuns, priests and church workers caught between Palestinian gunmen holed up in the church and Israeli troops surrounding it.

Bethlehem Gov. Mohammed al-Madani, who is a member of a five-person Palestinian negotiating team, said the talks were canceled because the Palestinians wanted clergymen to at-

TALKS/A16

Arafat sleepless in Ramallah

AMMAN—Yasser Arafat is in good health but suffers from insomnia because of the siege around his headquarters, his personal doctor said here Thursday after giving him a long-overdue full medical checkup.

"I found him in high spirits and in good health," Ashraf Kurdi told a press conference in Amman after a helicopter trip to Arafat's ruined headquarters in the besieged West Bank town of Ramallah.

"But if it (siege) continues God knows what will happen to him," Arafat's neurologist, close friend and private doctor since the 1980s, warned.

"I gave him a full medical examination that lasted 90 minutes," Kurdi said, adding that he had examined his heart, respi-

ARAFAT/A16

'They came because they remembered'

By Volt Contreras

"I NEVER asked anyone to come. They came because they remembered," said ousted President Joseph Estrada when asked how many had been invited to his private afternoon party to mark his 65th birthday yesterday.

To accommodate his guests, the police allowed the former President the use of an auditorium at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) where he has been detained for nearly a year on charges of economic plunder.

Asked what he considered his best gift, Estrada said he had so far received "22 lechon, some of which probably came from Mrs. Arroyo so I will have a heart attack."

He quickly clarified it had been a standing joke between himself and the woman who used to be a heartbeat from assuming his position, then vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She usually gifted him on his birthdays with a lechon.

This time he received no personal greeting from the Palace only a wish from his successor "for him to have peace of mind." At the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) on Thursday night, President Macapagal added another wish: That Estrada "would at least, in accordance with the circumstances of justice, as comfortable a condition as possible."

About 5,000 more wanted to join the birthday party. But they were kept about 300 meters

THEY/A17

Need a miracle? Try faith healer, Erap told

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MANAOAG, Pangasinan—Is deposed President Joseph Estrada in search of a miracle? There's one miracle worker who is more than willing to work on Estrada's bad eyes and knees.

Internationally famous faith healer Alex Orbito said he would be glad to operate on Estrada.

"It's our (faith healers) privilege to heal (Estrada). God is for the country so I cannot turn him down (if he wants me to heal him)," Orbito said.

But unlike the country's top eye and knee surgeons, Orbito works with his bare hands. His unorthodox healing, however, is not to be scoffed at. He has

NEED/A17

Gloria looking for Tiglao replacement as press sec

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

RIGOBERTO "Bobi" Tiglao flew to Japan just less than a week ago, and now it looks like the press-secretary-on-leave will not have a job to return to.

His boss, President Macapagal-Arroyo, admitted Thursday night that she was scouting for a press secretary. She said she was having second thoughts about Tiglao because she was not optimistic of his chances of being confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Since Tiglao went on leave on April 15 to take up a visiting professor fellowship at Kyoto University, observers have been speculating that he would not keep his post for long.

The speculations heated up when shortly after his departure, the President appointed her longtime publicist

GLORIA/A17

EDWIN BACASMAS

CROWD-DRAWER, TOO
President Macapagal is welcomed at Amadeo, Cavite, during her visit to launch a coffee festival.

KULANG ANG EBIDENSYA!

Second FRONT PAGE

RP frees 2 Indon terror suspects

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the immediate release and repatriation of two Indonesians held here for suspected terrorism.

She ordered the releases after government prosecutors found a lack of evidence against them, presidential spokesperson Silvestre Afable told reporters.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri had made a personal appeal to Ms Macapagal to free Abdul Jamal Balfas and Tamsil Linrung, who together with another Indonesian were arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last month for alleged possession of bomb parts, Afable said.

The third Indonesian, Agus Dwirkana, would continue to be held because investigations into his case were not complete, Afable said.

Philippine authorities had branded the three suspected terrorists, but some groups in Indonesia claimed the case was politically motivated alleging the three had been detained at Jakarta's request.

"The charges against the two were dismissed by the secretary of justice. The two will be released now to the Indonesian authorities through the Indonesian ambassador," Afable said.

"And on the part of the President, she approved this immediately in recognition of our special relations with Indonesia and the need for closer goodwill between the two nations," he said.

Intelligence officials in Manila had earlier said the three had reportedly met associates of another Indonesian, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, who has been jailed for 12 years for illegal possession of explosives and having fake local passports.

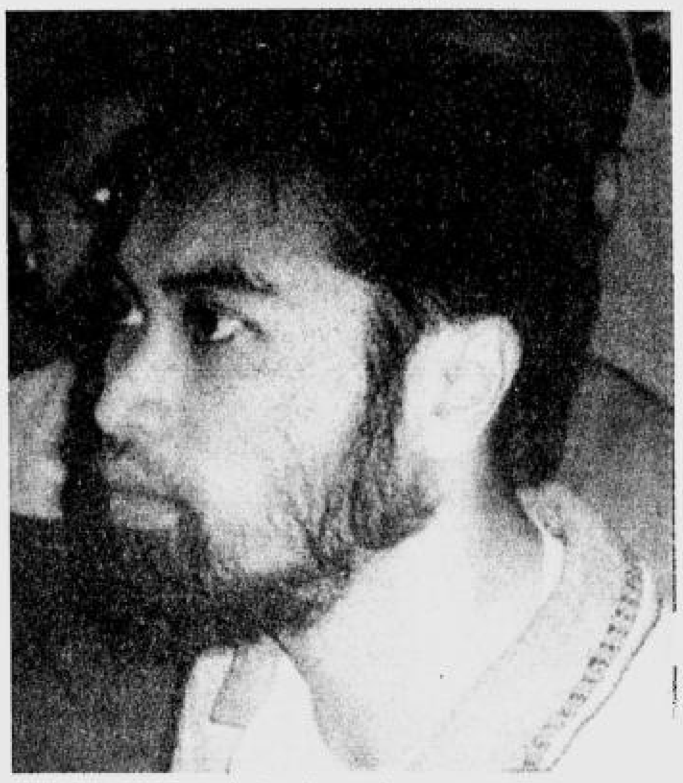
Philippine authorities have said al-Ghozi, 30, was an explosives expert for the Jemaah Islamiyah extremist group, the regional allies of al-Qaida led by chief terror suspect Osama bin Laden.

They said he was behind a series of deadly bomb blasts in Manila in 2000 that claimed over a dozen lives, a charge denied by al-Ghozi.

Linrung, one of those freed, had said he saw Filipino policemen plant bomb-making material and claims he was framed to discredit Indonesian presidential hopeful Amien Rais, reports from Jakarta have said.

Linrung was formerly the treasurer of Rais' National Mandate Party.

Rais had also accused the Philippine police of engineering the arrests. *AFP*


AL-GHOZI: Two convictions in two days

Al-Ghozi pleads guilty to faking passports

ZAMBOANGA CITY—An Indonesian alleged bomb expert for the al-Qaida network pleaded guilty in court here yesterday to falsifying two local passports as part of an alleged terror scheme.

Speaking through an interpreter provided by the Indonesian Embassy, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, 30, admitted in court that he acquired two passports in this city last year by claiming he was a Filipino born in the south.

On Thursday, Al-Ghozi was ordered by another local court to be jailed for up to 12 years for illegal possession of a huge cache of explosives that was allegedly to be used in terror attacks in the region.

His lawyer convinced him to plead guilty in that case in order to get a lighter sentence.

Hakim Abdulwahid, the presiding judge of the passport-faking case, said he would hand down a sentence on al-Ghozi later Friday.

Al-Ghozi, who was flown into Zamboanga City under tight guard, faced two charges of falsifying public documents and could be jailed for three to 10 years on each count.

Prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron asked for a sentence of four to six years per count with a fine of P60,000 before the presiding judge called a break for lunch.

Al-Ghozi's lawyer, Confesor Sansalo, did not object but asked the court to strike out the words, "terroristic acts" and "freedom fighter" from the court records.

The handcuffed Indonesian showed no reaction when the charges were read.

Philippine authorities have said al-Ghozi was an explosives expert for the Jemaah Islamiyah extremist group.

Officials say the group is the Southeast Asian network of al-Qaida, led by Osama bin Laden who allegedly masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Prosecutors alleged that al-Ghozi has also admitted to plotting and financing a series of deadly bomb attacks in Manila in 2000 that claimed more than a dozen lives.

They also charged that he planned similar attacks against US targets in Singapore. The passports were believed to be intended for use in the plot.

Al-Ghozi faces another charge of illegal possession of 17 assault rifles that were found with the explosives cache in the Philippines.

Security was tight around the court building in Zamboanga city with police commandos and a bomb squad with sniffer dogs checking the premises before the proceedings.

Al-Ghozi's father, Mohammad Zainuri, 64, who was allowed to attend the trial, said that he respects the decision on the court but insisted that his son was not involved with terrorists.

Speaking through an interpreter, Zainuri said: "He has been a good boy. He has been an obedient son since he was a kid.

"He is a preacher, an Islamic teacher. I do not believe he is linked to the al-Qaida."

Zainuri expressed hope that the Philippines would allow his son to be repatriated to serve his sentence in Indonesia. *AFP*

Malaysian police say 100 members of terror group still at large

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Malaysian police believe that 100 members of an al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremist group remain at large following the arrests of 14 suspects, including the wife of a Malaysian accused of helping two of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

The national police chief was quoted by newspapers Friday as saying that the woman, Sejarahtul Dursina, was arrested because she was a partner in the computer firm that gave terror suspect Zacarias Moussaoui a job to facilitate his entry into the United States.

Moussaoui is awaiting trial in the United States on charges of conspiracy in the Sept. 11 attacks. A French citizen of Moroccan origin, he is alleged to be the so-called missing hijacker who failed to make the jetliner that crashed into a Pennsylvania field after passengers charged the four terrorists who had seized their plane.

Sejarahtul's husband, Yazid Sufaat, a former Malaysian Army officer, was taken into custody earlier this year for allegedly allowing two other Sept. 11 hijackers, Saudi nationals Khalid al-Midhar and Nawa al-Hazmi, to meet at an apartment the couple owned near Kuala Lumpur in 2000.

Sufaat is also alleged to have signed a letter on the stationery of the computer company naming Moussaoui the firm's sales representative so he would have an excuse to do business in the United States.

Both Sejarahtul, 37, and Yazid, 38, attended California State University at Sacramento in the mid-1980s, police said.

Police Inspector General Norian Mai told Malaysian media at a news conference Thursday that the 14 arrests marked the destruction of one cell of a militant group linked to al-Qaida, but that 100 members remained at large, including three university lecturers who have gone underground.

Norian said most of the 14 arrested had received guerrilla training in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Philippines.

The detainees are being held under the Internal Security Act, which allows for indefinite detention without charge or trial.

In their raids Wednesday and early Thursday, police seized computers, mobile phones, and a map of Port Klang, Malaysia's key western harbor. Asked if the group had planned to sabotage the port, Norian said more investigation was needed.

The sweep brings the number of suspected extremists picked up by Malaysian authorities to 62 since last May, when the government said an organization called the Malaysian Mujaheedin Group was planning a violent revolt financed by bank robberies.

The group is alleged to be part of Jemaah Islamiyah, a network of Southeast Asian militants with links to al-Qaida that hopes to install a hardcore Islamic state across Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Malaysian authorities arrested 24 people in December and January, including Yazid, who were allegedly involved in a plot to blow up the US Embassy and other Western targets in Singapore. Police in Singapore made similar sweeps.

Authorities in both countries identified Abu Bakar Baasyir and Riduan Isamuddin, also known as Hambali, as the leaders. Both are Indonesians.

Baasyir, a cleric, remains free in Indonesia, where authorities there say they have no evidence to justify his detention. Hambali's whereabouts are unknown. *AP*

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'Tax on text' triggers howls of protest

By Abigail L. Ho and Rocky Nazareno

A TAX on text messages? No way!

Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho's plan to impose a tax on phone text messaging was met by howls of protest from telecommunications firms and consumer groups—who proved they could actually agree on something—and at least three senators.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, the chair of the Senate committee on public services, castigated Camacho for "being (so) bereft of ideas" that he would propose to tax something that is used extensively by all social classes—the poor, the middle classes and the elite.

"We have been made to believe that the ones running Finance are brilliant. Is this all they can offer?" said Arroyo in a statement.

Cellphone companies Globe Telecom and Smart Communications, both claiming to have absorbed certain taxes to spare their subscribers, said they would look at additional taxes in a different light.

In a statement issued yesterday, Globe's senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo Salalima said the service providers could very well decide to pass on such taxes to the consumers in the form of higher rates.

Smart refrained from saying what course of action it would take until the government comes up with a concrete proposal.

When that happens, "then we can make a thorough presentation of all the taxes we already bear," said Smart's public affairs head Ramon Isberto.

Salalima said the telecom industry was already overtaxed, with telecom firms having to pay local government taxes, franchise taxes, real property taxes as well as administrative and supervision fees to the National Telecommunications Commission.

Consumer advocacy groups said the government should lay off consumers who are already burdened with fuel price increases, an impending power and water rate hikes and a possible fare increase.

"There is no justification for this. The government is insensitive to the sentiments of the people," said Rod Domingo Jr., the executive director of the Cellphone Owners and Users of the Philippines (COUP).

Domingo's group and two others—the Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTI) and the Consumer Complaints Center—will be meeting over the weekend to plan their next move.

TXTPower, an organization of cellphone subscribers, warned of "a taxpayers and texters revolt" should government push through with the plan.

But though they agreed with the cellphone companies that the government should not impose a tax on text messaging, the consumer groups were not about to make common cause with the phone firms.

"This will be another reason for Smart and Globe to raise their already exorbitant rates for texting and calls," said TXTPower spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz.

Cruz said the government should check if Smart and Globe had been remitting the value-added tax that they collect from their subscribers and if they are paying the correct taxes.

Domingo, who said government should impose the proposed tax on the cellular phone firms themselves, brought up the issue of "text reduction" imposed on subscribers last October and January in which the government was not able to do anything to help consumers.

"They weren't able to do anything about the text reduction issue. Now our own government—the one that should protect us—is itself planning to impose additional taxes," he said.

Arroyo also questioned the motive behind the plan to impose the tax.

"The government occasionally is the target of text campaigns. Is the objective actually prior restraint on text messaging under the guise of taxation and, thus, spare the government from criticism through text?" he asked.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan lashed out at the planned 10-centavo tax, saying "it would limit, if not totally deny, Filipino consumers access to modern technology."

"There are existing sources of revenue which are not maximized by the government because of the inefficient system of tax collection and enforcement of laws," he said.

It's back to 'Ate Glo'; 'Ina ng Bayan' didn't fly

IT'S back to "Ate Glo" for President Macapagal-Arroyo who admitted yesterday that her packaging as "Ina ng Bayan" (Mother of the Nation) had failed.

And the President does not think it was because she was a bad actress that her two Ina ng Bayan television "infomercials" bombed.

"Maybe it's true they don't find me credible as Ina ng Bayan," she said.

Noting how people spontaneously address as "Ate Glo," she conceded that that might be how they prefer to look at her.

"Maybe it's because I look more like an *ate* (older sister) than an *ina* (mother)," she laughingly told her audience at the Manila Overseas Press Club on Thursday night.

Her media handlers coined the nickname "Ate Glo" for her after the siege of Malacañang by supporters of her deposed predecessor, to try to make her more approachable to the urban poor mass base of the jailed ex-president.

Her personal publicist and now "senior media consultant" Dante Ang reportedly scoffed at the nickname, however.

Early this year, he came out with his own brainchild, the Ina ng Bayan infomercials.

In the two broadcasts released some two months ago, the President portrayed herself as a mother working hard to uplift the lives of her children.

She ended with a soft-voiced appeal, "*Kailangan ko kayo* (I need you)."

But the latest Pulse Asia survey showed that the motherly image she affected did not go over well with most Filipinos.

Ms Macapagal yesterday said she would not have needed to come out with the infomercials if the media had reported how she tried to find solutions to the problems of the masses.

She said she recently concluded an agreement with the residents of Taytay, Rizal who were initially opposed to the construction of a P2.5 billion dike because their houses would be submerged.

The residents have now agreed to allow the dike to be built.

"I'd like to see that report on TV more than a debate on whether my infomercial was working or not," she said.

Dona Pazzibugan

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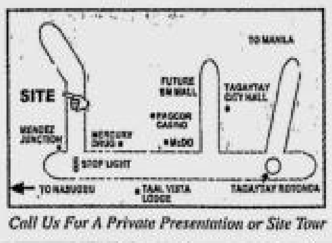

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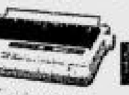

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Health chief asked: Where's ₱160M for family planning?

By Armand N. Nocum

A POPULATION control advocacy group has accused Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit of allegedly withholding the use of some P160 million in funds for contraceptives and reproductive health owing to pressure from the Catholic Church.

The Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) Foundation, which counts legislators among its members, said it would initiate a congressional inquiry where Dayrit would be asked to explain where the funds went.

Roberto M. Ador, the PLCPD executive director, said P100 million of the amount had come from the congressional allocation of Sen. Juan Flavier and the P60 million from the annual budget of the health department intended for family planning programs, including contraceptive promotion.

Ador said the money, approved in the 1999 budget, had been effectively put to use by Dayrit's predecessor, Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez.

Dayrit, however, is reportedly reluctant to make use of it.

"Not for anything else, but he must be afraid of the Church," Ador said.

Ador theorized that President Macapagal-Arroyo's position against contraceptives could be influencing the government agencies.

He said that even legislators have not been immune from the Church pressure against supporting reproductive health legislation.

As a result, such bills are never passed even if about 80 percent of members of Congress are reportedly supportive of family planning and population control, Ador said.

"Some bishops are pressuring Congress to stop the passage of bills on population control and reproductive health," he said.

He said Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro, a PLCPD board treasurer, was herself approached by a bishop in her area.

"There's an implied pressure that they will not support you in the next election if you don't give in to them," he said.

He claimed that Flavier had told him that he had allocated P100 million for population control and reproductive health programs of the Department of Health, but the senator claims not to have heard anything more about the fund.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Dayrit who was in Subic on an official trip but he was unavailable for comment.

'Moderately strong' quake jolts eastern Luzon

AN EARTHQUAKE measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale jolted the eastern Philippines Friday but there were no reports of damage or casualties, seismologists said.

The tremor was caused by the movement of an off-shore fault about 18 km east of Sorsogon province, said Jane Punongbayan of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

"It's a moderately strong earthquake," the expert said.

AFP

'Just follow the setting sun'

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

FILIPINOS don't have to know much about astronomy to see the rare phenomenon of five planets aligning themselves in clusters in the night sky. All they have to do is look in the direction where the sun sets.

"You just follow the setting sun and you will see the planetary conjunction unraveling before your eyes," said Elmor Escosia, the chief of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Some 70 stargazers gathered at the Pag-asa observatory at the University of the Philippines campus on Thursday night to watch the spectacle of the planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn and Jupiter converging in the western sky.

The clustering of the planets, visible to the naked eye in the evenings for the next four weeks, is a rare conjunction that will not be seen again until 2040.

A bigger crowd was expected to flock to the UP last night after news of the planetary conjunction came out yesterday. Aside from using the observatory's powerful telescope, the curious are expected to bring their own binoculars and smaller telescopes to have a better view of the planets.

What they will see will be the four planets—Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn—grouped within the span of 10 degrees of the sky, or about the width of a fist held at arm's length. Jupiter will be a bit higher, about three fist-widths away, but still quite close.

Escosia said Mars, Saturn and Jupiter would be seen as part of the constellation Taurus, while Mercury would be in the constellation Aries.

He said only the moon would change positions, alternating between being "overhead" of Jupiter, and being between Jupiter and Saturn.

On Thursday night, the moon was seen between Saturn and Jupiter.

On Sunday, it is predicted to be "overhead" of Jupiter.

Each evening, the alignment will assume different shapes as the five planets take their orbital paths around the sun.

The cluster will start to dissipate around May 12 when Mercury will dip closer to the horizon and become less visible, astronomers said.

Cadacio, 60

MRS. Corazon Borlaza Cadacio, a dedicated public school teacher at the San Pablo City High School, joined her creator on April 15. She was 60.

Mrs. Cadacio died after a lingering illness. She is survived by husband Dominador; children journalist Jodeal and Analyn, Majoreeline, Ma. Carmeliza and Peebles, and Jennifer; and grandchildren John Gabriel, Maria Anjealyn, John Raphael, Maria Jodealyn, and Isabella Rose.

Her body now lies in state at the Cathedral Resurrection Chapel in San Pablo City. Interment is on Tuesday, April 23, 10 a.m., at the San Gabriel Memorial Gardens in San Pablo.

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Presentation of Pledges for the Protection of Mother Earth
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Benipayo blinks on SK polls registration

COMELEC Chair Alfredo Benipayo has blinked in his latest stand-off with his rival commissioners, agreeing to hold the Sangguniang Kabataan special registration in the country's barangay halls.

In a press briefing, Benipayo also announced that the registration date has been moved to May 20 to 21 from the original April 22 to 27.

But Benipayo stressed that he agreed to hold the registration in the barangay halls as a concession to the National Youth Council.

Benipayo and the commissioners allied with him, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr., had wanted the registration to be held in the election offices of every city or municipal hall.

Benipayo said he agreed to the barangay registration to be supervised by a board of election (BET) at the urging of the NYC.

The youth leaders did not want the exercise to be tinged with political color and influenced by politicians, as they believed they would be if they were held in the city or municipal halls.

The decision was made at an *en banc* meeting of the Comelec on Thursday.

The disagreements on the choice of registration site threatened to disenfranchise some 3 million youth voters.

Benipayo has been feuding with the four commissioners—Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Mehol Sadain and Ralph Lantion—appointed by jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada. ***Armand Nocum***

DOT spots marketing opportunity in war games

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Don't know where to go on one of those three-day holiday weekends of the Macapagal administration? Stumped on activities for your *balikbayan* guests?

Not one to miss a marketing opportunity, the Department of Tourism has turned its sights on the joint Balikatan military exercise to be conducted shortly by Philippines and United States forces in Pampanga.

Picture this. Air combat set amid the gray lahar landscape. A quick scramble onto planes parked on a riverbed that is now a wide expanse of sand. Precision flight maneuvers above forests regenerating 10 years after a fierce volcanic eruption.

The DOT is rushing construction of a viewing deck on the route to the exercise site, the Crow Valley gunnery range at Clark, which used to be the biggest US military installation outside the mainland.

The gunnery range, all 17,000 hectares of it, is the shortest and easiest route to Mt. Pinatubo, which draws an average of 700 climbers a month in the summer.

Ronaldo Tiotuico, DOT regional director in Central Luzon, said the air forces' flight exercises would best be viewed from Durungawan, a tall hill in Crow Valley.

Durungawan lies in the mountainous interior of Barangay Sta. Juliana in Capas, Tarlac, north of the gunnery range.

Tiotuico said both the Philippine and US Air Forces are also rebuilding an observation post on the same hill.

The post, used since the 1960's by the US forces stationed at Clark, was damaged when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991.

Located 10 kilometers northwest of the volcano, every facility in the gunnery range was buried under volcanic ash and sand.

"We're not suspending the treks. Tourists will be allowed to see the exercises from Durungawan. This is a rare sight to see," Tiotuico told the INQUIRER.

He said Philippine and American military officials were not hostile to the idea of making the bilateral training exercise the DOT's latest come-on to tourists.

This after Aeta leaders appealed to authorities to allow the treks to continue since they are a major source of income for the Negrito tribe.

Tourists are advised to coordinate their climb with Philippine Air Force personnel assigned at Barangay Sta. Juliana. Viewing hours will be synchronized with the schedule of the military exercises. Balikatan 02-02, the second such exercise to be held this year, will be from April 22 to May 6.

DOJ raps PCGG over errors

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday ordered the Presidential Commission on Good Government to rectify the errors in its petitions seeking the forfeiture of the alleged ill-gotten wealth held by 13 Marcos cronies led by former first lady Imelda Marcos' brother, Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez.

During the preliminary investigation yesterday, State Prosecutor Roberto Lao and Senior State Prosecutor Jude Romano noticed the petitions had been addressed, not to the DOJ, but to the Sandiganbayan.

"If they were addressed to the Sandiganbayan, why are we hearing (the petitions) here (at the DOJ)?" Lao said.

Lao and Romano also learned the PCGG had used the 13 respondents' old addresses in communicating with them, which explained why they were not present at yesterday's hearing.

Lao and Senior State Prosecutor Miguel Gudio Jr. are members of the three-man DOJ panel headed by Romano that is studying the four separate forfeiture petitions filed by the PCGG.

The PCGG filed the petitions in order to get a certification from the DOJ showing probable cause in the cases against the 13 respondents.

The certification would allow the solicitor general, on behalf of the PCGG, to initiate forfeiture proceedings before the Sandiganbayan.

Romano ordered PCGG officials led by Commissioner Ruben Carranza, who were present at the hearing, to "rectify" the errors in the petitions.

Lao said the PCGG would have to submit amended petitions. "They will have to change the first and last pages . . . but they will have the same allegations," he said.

He said the errors, if promptly rectified, "will have no bearing" on the merits of the forfeiture petition.

"It's just a matter of form, which can be corrected," Lao said.

The DOJ panel also ordered the PCGG to furnish it with the new addresses of the respondents after the subpoenas issued for them were returned unserved.

"It appeared they were no longer at the addresses given by the PCGG," Romano said.

At yesterday's hearing, only the lawyer for former Marcos energy minister Geronimo Velasco Sr., Alberto Villanueva, showed up.

Villanueva asked for more time to prepare a counter-affidavit to the PCGG's forfeiture petition. The panel granted the request and asked him to submit his client's affidavit on May 6, when hearings resume.

Aside from Romualdez and Velasco Sr., those impleaded in the petition were Romualdez's wife Agnes, Geronimo Velasco Jr., Erlinda Velasco, Miguel Velasco, Ma. Paz Laperal, Urbano Velasco, Alfredo de Borja, Roberto Olanday, former Marcos social secretary Fe Roa Gimenez and her husband Ignacio, and former Ministry of Energy employee Carmencita Clavecilla.

In a subpoena dated April 9, they were asked to explain why the government should not forfeit their alleged ill-gotten wealth estimated at billions of dollars.

Gloria urged to state clear position on $350-M Jancom garbage contract

By Juliet L. Javellana and Alcuin Papa

A CONGRESSMAN has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to take her opposition to the $350-million Jancom Environmental Corp. garbage contract a step further by deciding what should be done in the issue.

Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta, who is also opposed to the Jancom deal, said that "beyond not signing the contract, the President should make a clear definitive decision on what should be done with this problem."

Acosta delivered the privileged speech that triggered the ongoing inquiry into the Jancom contract by the House committee on ecology. He said the President was "wise in refusing to sign the contract because of the serious flaws" it contained.

"I hope she would not backtrack," Acosta said.

Acosta objected, however, to the President's pronouncement that she was leaving it up to the Metro Manila Development Authority to decide the fate of the contract.

Acosta said the MMDA was a coordinating body subject to the policies of the Solid Waste Management Commission, which was created under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Augusto Baculio joined Acosta in saying the SWMC was the agency to decide on the garbage contract.

Baculio had called for a rebidding of the contract, saying the changes being contemplated by Jancom to the project called for a new bidding.

Jancom has said it was amenable to "downgrading" its project to a sanitary landfill in keeping with the prohibition against garbage incineration under the Clean Air Act.

"Every time a contract changes, you need a rebidding," Acosta said.

Environmental groups opposed to the Jancom contract said yesterday the government must follow bidding procedures strictly and consider other forms of waste management, if it will hold a rebidding of the controversial deal.

Von Hernandez of Greenpeace told the INQUIRER his group was amenable to a rebidding of the deal with certain conditions.

"A solid waste management contract must take into consideration other methods of dealing with waste. Garbage deals always focus on incinerators and landfills. Why not material recovery facilities (MRFs)? And what about segregation and recycling instead of landfills?" Hernandez said.

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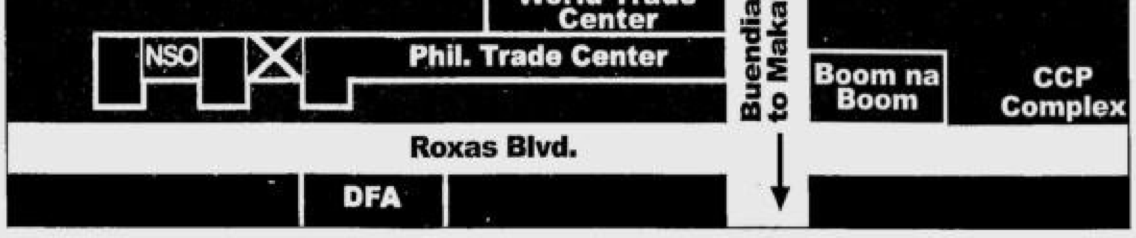

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Founding Chairman

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OPINION

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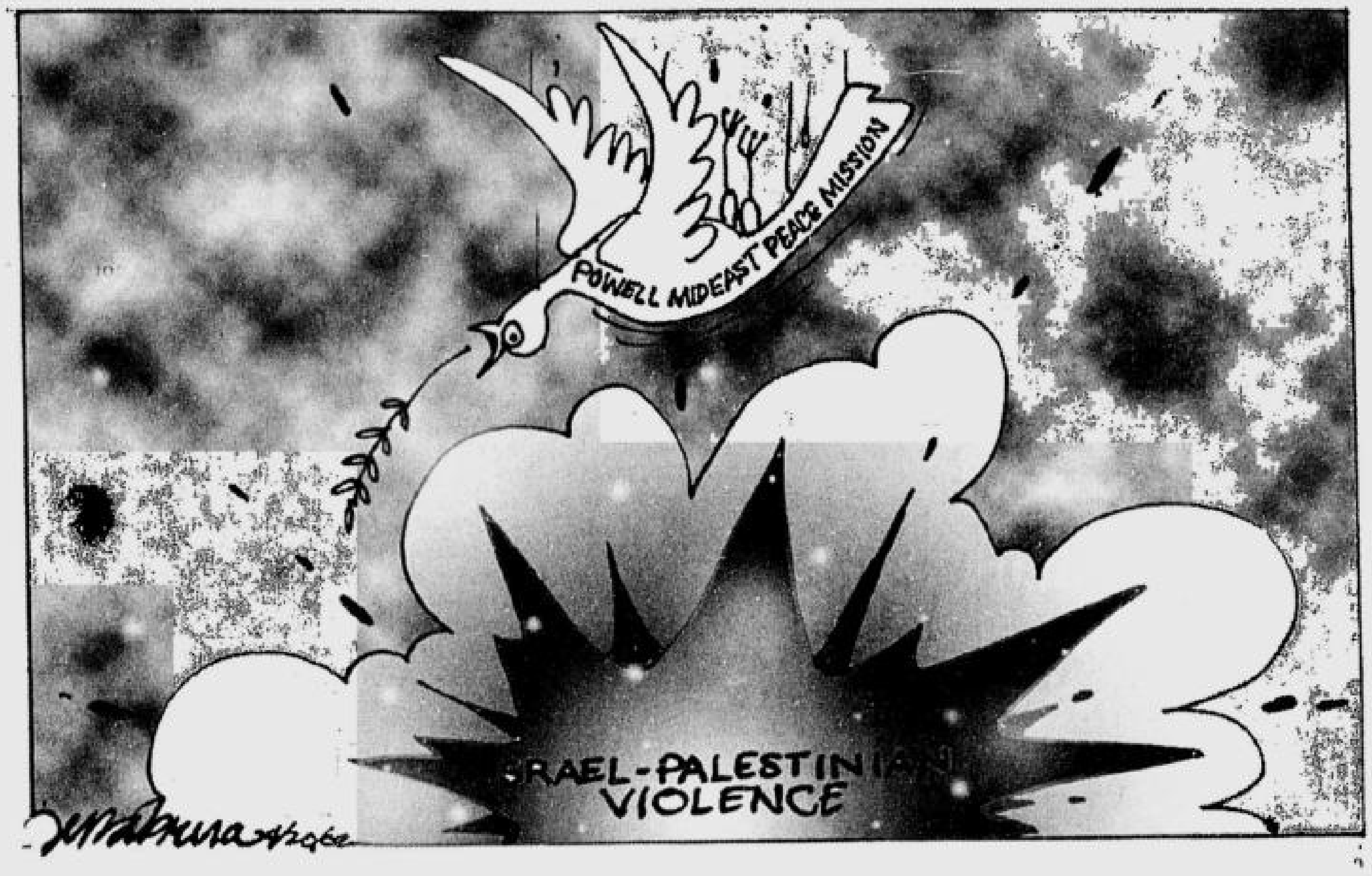

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But for all these pluses, there are also many shortcomings that political experience and objective studies have revealed during the last 15 years that the present Constitution has been in operation. That charter was adopted on Feb. 2, 1987, and we are now in a new century. It is time, I believe, to give it a new and sharper look, not in a spirit of carping or disdainful criticism but in a sincere effort to make it more responsive to the needs of the changing times.

As Justice Winslow said, "The political or philosophical aphorism of one generation is doubted by the next and entirely discarded by the third. The race moves forward constantly, and no Canute can stay its progress."

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The first, and by far the most damning, is that she is wholly responsible for the failure of the Commission on Elections to automate the counting and consolidation of the May 2001 election results, as mandated by law (RA 8436). The second is that she has been greatly remiss in the financial and administrative management of her projects, as pointed out by the Commission on Audit. And the third is that she has been greatly remiss in carrying out even the most simple duties of a commissioner—absenting herself from the scheduled en banc meetings of the Comelec without excuse, in what looks like a deliberate attempt to derail its operations. Let's take them one by one.

At first blush, saying that Tancangco is wholly responsible for the Comelec's failure to automate the 2001 elections may sound like a gross exaggeration. Not at all. Consider: She took over as chair of the Comelec's Modernization Committee (it is said that she volunteered for the position) effective Feb. 1, 1999. Thus, she had at least 27 months in which to do the election automation job, a task which the pre-Tancangco Comelec estimated to take four months, and which the Advisory Council, established under RA 8436 in early 1998, estimated could be done, if need be, in 90 days.

Yet 27 months after Tancangco took over as chair of the committee, the 2001 election counting and canvassing were still not automated. Why? Examining her actions and statements, it is not difficult to come up with an answer: because she did not want to. It looks like she never intended the 2001 elections to be automated, the mandate of RA 8346 notwithstanding. Her timetable called for 2004—maybe.

Again consider: Before she would even think of automation, she wanted to do a precinct mapping project first, followed by the Voters Registration and Identification System or VRIS (which would draw inputs from the precinct mapping). Only then should the automation, in her view, take place. But the timing was that the VRIS, which was at least a three-year project, was only scheduled to start in 2001. No time for the automation, obviously, until 2004, no matter the lip service paid to it.

It seemed to be of no moment to her that precinct mapping had already been done in 1997 and merely had to be updated, or that the precinct maps could be rendered obsolete anyway with automation, since there would be no more need to limit precincts to 250 voters.

Neither did it matter that the VRIS project was going to cost more than four times her own estimates. Nor that the VRIS was not even necessary—cleaning up voters' lists could be done with the help of political parties and non-government organizations at the barangay level, as provided in the law. Besides, under present law, it is not even mandatory to present a Comelec ID to vote. Ding Tanjuatco's remarks about her fixation for voter identification and her dislike for automation were right on the money.

Then there is the issue of her administrative and financial mismanagement, which comes out clearly in a special audit of her precinct mapping project, undertaken by the COA. Its findings: As of April 2001, or barely a month before the elections, less than a third of the total precincts had been mapped. Worse, of the total submitted maps, only 3.3 percent was considered in order. In other words, out of 230,000 precincts that should have been mapped, only 72,337 were completed, and of these, only 2,389 were considered to be in order.

And yet, Tancangco's team had already disbursed 56 percent of the total project cost of P500 million. At the same time, cash advances worth P41 million were granted to officials who were not bonded; and cash advances worth more than P56 million, granted between Feb. 1, 2000 and Feb. 6, 2001, remained unaccounted for as of Oct. 15, 2001. There can be no question that Tancangco should be accountable: on Feb. 24, 2000, she was designated as **"the signatory for all expenditures of the Modernization Project....including necessary actions/programs for the enhancement thereof, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT."** *(Emphasis mine.)*

The third ground for impeachment is her many unexcused absences from the Comelec's en banc meetings. From January to September 2001, she had 43 unexcused absences out of a total of 85 meetings. If anyone thinks this is too petty a ground for impeachment, I beg to differ. The absences are significant not only because they derailed the operations of the commission: in 30 of these meetings there was no quorum, and 14 occurred during the period before the May 14, 2001 elections, when there were very many pressing matters. Worse, they were done deliberately, as Tancangco herself admitted to Sen. Edgardo Angara in a Senate hearing.

No matter the legalese, based on the above, Tancangco is guilty of gross neglect of duty, inefficiency and incompetence in the performance of official duties, frequent unauthorized absences, refusal to perform official duty and conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service. And there has been no discussion about her dishonesty yet. But take your pick. Any one of the above acts merits dismissal—and she has committed them all. Impeach Tancangco.

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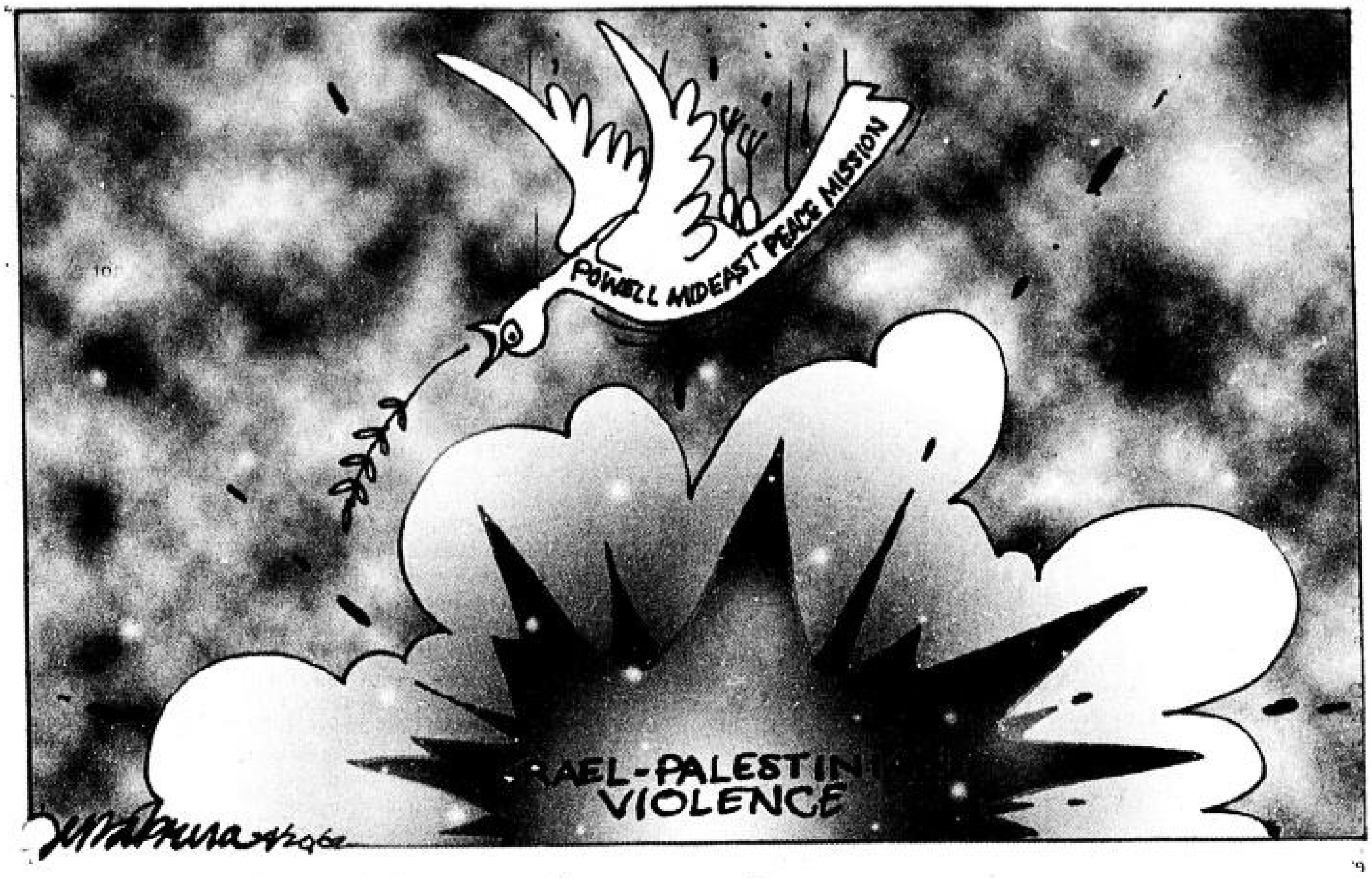

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Then there is the issue of her administrative and financial mismanagement, which comes out clearly in a special audit of her precinct mapping project, undertaken by the COA. Its findings: As of April 2001, or barely a month before the elections, less than a third of the total precincts had been mapped. Worse, of the total submitted maps, only 3.3 percent was considered in order. In other words, out of 230,000 precincts that should have been mapped, only 72,337 were completed, and of these, only 2,389 were considered to be in order.

And yet, Tancangco's team had already disbursed 56 percent of the total project cost of P500 million. At the same time, cash advances worth P41 million were granted to officials who were not bonded; and cash advances worth more than P56 million, granted between Feb. 1, 2000 and Feb. 6, 2001, remained unaccounted for as of Oct. 15, 2001. There can be no question that Tancangco should be accountable: on Feb. 24, 2000, she was designated as **"the signatory for all expenditures of the Modernization Project....including necessary actions/programs for the enhancement thereof, REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT."** (*Emphasis mine.*)

The third ground for impeachment is her many unexcused absences from the Comelec's en banc meetings. From January to September 2001, she had 43 unexcused absences out of a total of 85 meetings. If anyone thinks this is too petty a ground for impeachment, I beg to differ. The absences are significant not only because they derailed the operations of the commission: in 30 of these meetings there was no quorum, and 14 occurred during the period before the May 14, 2001 elections, when there were very many pressing matters. Worse, they were done deliberately, as Tancangco herself admitted to Sen. Edgardo Angara in a Senate hearing.

No matter the legalese, based on the above, Tancangco is guilty of gross neglect of duty, inefficiency and incompetence in the performance of official duties, frequent unauthorized absences, refusal to perform official duty and conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service. And there has been no discussion about her dishonesty yet. But take your pick. Any one of the above acts merits dismissal—and she has committed them all. Impeach Tancangco.

Gloria's Svengali?

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

THE CURIOUS shuffling in the Malacañang press office has continued to fuel speculation about the packaging and selling of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The center of the buzz is Dante Ang, the President's personal publicist cum senior consultant.

Ang has been a behind-the-scenes presence in Ms Macapagal's march into where she is now. He is credited with her periodic personality makeovers designed to keep up with changing public moods. Once she was Nora Aunor. Then, more recently, she was Ate Glo, Gloria *labandera* and now Ina ng Bayan.

Critics have been telling Ang to stop it—enough Gloria makeovers already! He is perceived as a puppeteer who orchestrates the President's moves without protest from his client. Because he claims credit for Ms Macapagal's many PR gimmicks, he is seen as a powerful figure in the President's inner circle. He is even believed to have driven away from office Press Secretary Noel Cabrera and his successor, Rigoberto Tiglao, to a sabbatical.

Is Ang really a hypnotic Svengali who mesmerizes the President to do his bidding in their bid to muster a mass following for her? Is he so influential over her that she consented to do those risible TV appeals that now appear to have backfired against her?

My own guess is, we give Ang too much credit. Do we really think a strong-willed politician like Ms Macapagal would go along namby-pamby with the wishes of a mere PR adviser? Rather, what I see in the President is a believer in the efficacy of information media. Here is a public figure who uses media to the fullest extent. Ms Macapagal has a history of using media for constant exposure, from her senatorial term to her vice presidential days to the present.

As Ms Macapagal's handlers say, there's nothing wrong with using media to communicate to the people. Indeed. It's savvy of Ms Macapagal to know how to use communication tools.

But her resort to media seems obsessive. What I see is someone who is so insecure, she has to reinforce her position by taking to the tube, not only to reassure the people she's on the job, but also to reassure herself that she still has the job.

Someone has observed that Ms Macapagal and her handlers must think all they have is a press relations problem. That is one of their problems, if they think they can smooth things over through PR. People expect results, not rhetoric.

It's safe to say that Ms Macapagal has got to be the most press-conscious President in recent memory. Those photo-ops, the "funny costumes" as one letter-writer remarked, the TV appeals and the tinkering with her persona—these are all meant to induce press coverage.

All things considered, Ms Macapagal has received a good press so far. But with all her handlers' activity, their tampering with her image hasn't been so successful. It's not hard to divine why.

One PR cycle, she's the iron lady threatening to crush her enemies. The next, she's Ate Glo with a caring heart. Then, she's Gloria *labandera*. Then, she reverts to her feisty self and promises to sow fire and brimstone on those ruthless bandits out South. Meanwhile, she castigates a Cabinet member here or a reporter there.

Now, she's being marketed as the mother of the country, Ina ng Bayan.

No wonder some supporters of hers are blaming the President's personal publicist. They claim the continual makeovers are confusing the people.

(Incidentally, ever wonder how many presidents and prime ministers have their own "personal publicists"? Actually, there's nothing wrong with this, either. If the President wants a personal image-maker, that's her business. But one wonders if there isn't something wrong when her private publicist has a big say in the administration's press operations. This has been resolved somewhat with Ang's appointment as a senior consultant, but let's watch if he and acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable get along.)

Some people are even beginning to miss the President's *mataray* persona. They wonder: Why not just be herself even if she's *mataray?*

That's the key. The President's handlers are peddling an image that's not really her. The *mataray* personality wasn't exactly winning legions of fans, and her tantrums are offensive. But the way they've been trying to soften her image has indeed been confusing. Worse, the chameleon-like changes strain people's credulity. People aren't buying the makeovers.

Despite pep talk about us being more intelligent voters today, many Filipinos still have a long way to go in the wise use of their suffrage. But on this one, you can't pull the wool over their eyes. Who would buy the caring Ate Glo image when they know the President to be *mataray* and *suplada?*

That's the President's problem. Because people already know she's *mataray,* they simply do not believe the peddled new image of a caring mother of the country. After her first outbursts of temper, instead of being apologetic, Ms Macapagal even seemed to enjoy the hubbub she created. Perhaps she felt in command as she basked in her post-tantrum aura.

Iron lady, Gloria *labandera, Ate* Glo, Ina ng Bayan—none of these personas has drawn in the fans. But don't just blame the image-maker. It's hard to imagine the client kicking and screaming when they were planning the selling and reselling of the President.

Leandro V. Coronel is a freelance journalist.

Straight out of a soap

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S a scene straight out of a soap opera. Jealous wife of a rich man stalks out allegedly in search of his mistress, comes upon another woman she suspects to be a conspirator, angrily confronts her and, witnesses say, in a rage shoots the woman down.

The scene belongs in a soap where slapping and name-calling are daily fare, where histrionics is the common mode of behavior and *contravidas* are glamorous, scheming and capable of twisting everyone around their pinkies.

But the scenario, unfortunately, is not the fruit of some scriptwriter's fervid imagination. It's all too real, though the aftermath reads like a bad script in a movie starring Erap. For true to the conventions of the underdog genre, the rich villain seems poised to flout not just the law but social order itself. The rich, as they say, are different from you and me.

If Marybeth Lopez de Leon, the suspect in the shooting of Belma Abella, the private nurse of De Leon's husband, were an "ordinary" suspect in a crime, she perhaps would have been paraded in front of the media by now, a cardboard placard bearing her name hanging from her neck. As is often done with suspects lower down the socioeconomic ladder, she might even have had to face the family of the murdered nurse, to be slapped and cursed in full view of the TV cameras, the scene broadcast to every home with a TV set in the early evening news.

I'm not saying, of course, that I support such treatment of suspects. I've long advocated that police truly practice the dictum that all suspects are "innocent until proven guilty," and that the media not be given a free hand to stage and record confrontations between suspects and victims.

But the fact that De Leon has yet to make an appearance before the police or prosecutor, despite the statements of two eyewitnesses, illustrates vividly that there is one standard for the treatment of suspects belonging to the upper strata of society, and quite another for the lumpen snatcher or hoodlum.

* * *

DE LEON'S presumably high-priced lawyers have declared that she is "not in hiding" and that she is not receiving any sort of "special treatment." But it strikes me as uncanny that the Las Piñas police seem to be treading oh-so-softly in its investigation, and that De Leon's lawyers seem to enjoy the right to choose the law enforcement agency to conduct the investigation.

The city prosecutor's office has already "invited" the matron to make her statement in reply to the murder complaint filed by Abella's family. But a week has already passed and police say they have yet to recover the spent shell from the gun believed to have been used to shoot down the nurse. I can't help but recall the "instant" arrests police make after every sensational crime, proudly proclaiming the case "solved." But here is a crime where two eyewitnesses have positively identified the suspect and the police seem to be pussyfooting around a possible arrest. It's like they're hoping they won't have to arrest anyone, if possible.

* * *

WHICH brings me back to the soaps.

However absurd the storylines and convolutions of plot, a soap opera still has to adhere to reality and logic, otherwise it risks losing its audience. So no matter how complicated it gets down the road, the basic story must still contain a kernel of human experience that the audience can recognize, identify with and want to live vicariously.

A soap opera director once told me that the main character of a soap opera is not really the heroine but the *contravida*, for it is the villain at whom the viewers can direct their hatred and vitriol. It's easier, it seems, to hate rather than sympathize with someone, for it is in "hating" someone that one is better able to purge oneself of one's own mundane concerns.

Soap opera villains are usually rich and unscrupulous, because, in the *masa's* estimation, rich people **are** usually unscrupulous, arrogant and look down their sharp noses at ordinary folk. The soaps need only feed on the sense of injustice and thwarted opportunities that the poor experience every day to make a connection. No matter how twisted or insane the *contravidas* appear, their perverse power still makes sense, because the poor know the rich can get away with anything in this country.

* * *

AND that's why Erap can still count on the love and loyalty of his poor followers. In their eyes, Edsa Dos has accomplished little except shove aside the man they believed, with all their heart, to have been the only politician to ever have identified with them and taken them to his heart.

This is drivel, of course, as the record of the Erap administration bears, but facts can in no way counter sentiment and image.

And if the poor feel Edsa Dos has accomplished nothing, that's because their lives have not changed for the better, and their sense of frustration, forever gazing at the disappearing horizon while they're stuck at the bottom rung of society, has been growing by the day.

Meantime, someone like Marybeth Lopez de Leon is seen by two eyewitnesses shooting an unarmed woman, and a week later, she has yet to testify before the local police. If we all lived in the world of soap opera, she would now be standing in her living room, dressed to the nines, clutching a glass of wine in one hand and drawing on a cigarette (with a cigarette holder!) in the other, and laughing a deep, throaty, self-satisfied laugh while throwing back her perfectly coiffed head. The scene is melodramatic, but in light of Philippine reality, it makes perfect sense.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Exodus

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

YOU must have noticed that no matter how serious the national situation may be, no senior official ever gets in front of the cameras to address the nation and say, *"Mga kababayan,* we are in crisis." Rehabilitation centers call this attitude a state of denial, a "normal" state with addicts. But perhaps that's what politicians are—addicts to power and money.

It's a pity because instead of treating us like a bunch of wayward children who can't take the truth, officials prefer to manipulate and feed the populace panaceas, consisting of statistics that don't mean anything when one has to find the means to buy necessities. Who cares and what does it mean to us if GNP growth is faster than last year's or that the inflation rate has gone down when a kilo of meat or fish costs P100 more than it did a year or two ago, the peace and order has deteriorated even further and Meralco and the gas companies are threatening more increases?

I may be exaggerating, but I am sure statistics will show that Filipinos are "voting with their feet." The professionals aren't bothering to argue, realizing the futility of complaining to an official about anything. They're applying for visas at the different embassies and packing their bags. After all, the nationalists who insist they're being unpatriotic are not going to pay their bills and send their children to school. The officials, be they police, military, politicians or their appointees, will insist they're doing their best. Depending on who you are, they will say this gruffly and petulantly or apologetically. Needless to say, but obvious to anyone packing those bags, their best isn't good enough.

I will reiterate that the President cannot effect changes by herself although she could set the example, one of which would be to tell Dante Ang to come up with something less tired than trying to make her appear like someone that she is not. Perhaps there are other countries where the chief executive's birthday is celebrated by "giving away" land titles that are not her private property to give. But in general, the CEOs of those countries celebrate their natal days privately. Who knows or cares when the birthdays of the French, Danish and Japanese prime ministers are, except the immediate members of their families?

You will observe that the Estrada faction is manipulating the poor one way, and the administration another way. The cynical "poor" (to differentiate from the honest ones) are busy manipulating both political factions. What can they get from each other? At this point, they deserve each other because neither is being particularly honest.

In the meantime, I am told that the US Embassy is processing a hundred visas daily and so are those of the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. Now these people applying are professionals, those who form the country's middle class. These are the people who know they cannot expect an honest answer as to why the killers of the Kuratong Baleleng, Nida Blanca or Bobby Dacer are going to get away with it. Or why when the government is cutting the budget, their representatives continue their junkets as though there were no crisis (maybe for them there isn't). Those who have options don't particularly want their children to grow up in that kind of an environment, and who can blame them?

It would be interesting to know who among the relatives of elected officials have trader's visas or children with cards. There are enough of them with houses and condominiums abroad. Is it possible that it is they who don't really believe in this country? Because if they did, why is it being exploited the way it is with no thought for future generations?

You should take note that no one in the House or the Senate has really taken a stand to ensure that the Clean Air Act is implemented. Watch them shake when the lobbies for transportation companies mobilize their labor associations. Since the riding public can only cough and wheeze and the children develop asthma without threatening their hold on power, we can rest assured the atmosphere will continue to threaten everybody's health without causing a ripple in what may remain of the consciences of our officials.

When you travel around the country, you cannot help but wonder why despite all the years of pork barrel, a.k.a. as Countrywide Development Fund (what do the representatives from the urban areas do with theirs?), Samar, Masbate, Bicol, etc. remain undeveloped. The fishermen from Samar living in the reclaimed areas of a once lovely boulevard say they left because only the Chinese had refrigerated boats that could take their catch to the city. They, on the other hand, were forced to sell at rock-bottom prices because if they didn't, the fish would rot and they would have no income.

The Muslims say they have no schools or clinics, no sewerage or farm to market roads or financing for the farmer. This is nothing new; the situation has been going on for more than 50 years.

You think maybe, by some fluke, the situation bothers your honorable representatives? If you think about it, most of them don't even live in their districts and, given the state of development, why should they?

Yes, we are in crisis and the sooner government officials stop acting as though happy days are here again and once they start to address the problem with some honesty (are they capable?), the Filipino will stop voting with his feet.

Bring back the laughter

YOUNGBLOOD

Mayee Sta. Ana

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I LAMENT the loss of laughter in my current relationship.

It hit me one day when he addressed me by my first name—something he had not done for a long time. What we have is nothing official, meaning nobody knows. It's one of those uncertain quasi-high school "understandings" that is in limbo where putting a label spoils everything. You did this and that, and no one who sees you will sigh and reminisce about those days of young and carefree love. But on that day, I decided I was getting tired of the uncertainty and worked up the guts. I told him I loved him. My happy meter started to plunge.

Carefree was replaced by careful. "Honey" was demoted to plain, old "Mayee." And anticipation turned into apprehension. Now it's all caution lest I push him away by appearing too eager: now fearing to offer my cheek, now thinking twice if I can still call him "Baby." The lightness in our companionship has been eclipsed by the seriousness of the possibility of a commitment.

No one survives without laughing. Even the hermit and the retardate laugh to themselves. Science has proven that action triggers the release of hormones that stimulate your brain and keep you healthy and sane. Experience has shown that seeing a certain someone beats any drug-induced high anytime. A feeling of joy descending on you and crying it out because it somehow feels "righter" than laughing it out can do wonders. Laughter is not merely a biological reflex triggered by an appropriate stimulus but also an emotional catharsis that keeps the passion alive.

I miss the laughter. Now it has left his eyes when they look at me. Now it has taken flight from his lips when he speaks to me. Now he refuses to let it touch his heart when I smile at him.

May this serve as a reminder to all of us, since no man is alone and must belong to a society and sub-societies of relationships. Have we all become couples and families and friends who have taken each other for granted, who plod on through our lives and have forgotten to really appreciate those with whom we always are? Are we scared to express ourselves positively for fear of being misinterpreted? Taking a person for granted is the surest way to banish the laughter, consciously or subconsciously, that he or she possesses and longs to share.

I miss the eager kindergarten look that used to light up his face when I waved to him. I miss slapping his hand when he lets out a whoop at something I said. I miss the lightness that I knew was in his heart before I decided to plant myself in it.

The love is there, yes, but so is much fear. Laughter is fear's worst nightmare. Bring back the laughter.

Mayee Sta. Ana, 20, hides behind a pseudonym because too many people have read this piece. She just graduated from a university in Quezon City.

Carlo

Ching

IT was not until he died that I realized how much he meant to me. It was not until I lost him that I knew how much I loved him. He was my first boyfriend, my first kiss. We were together for five months.

I knew I was too young to get involved in a relationship, but I thought love conquered all. We were chicks who had gone astray but we were happy together in the unpredictable journey of juvenile love. We went out, watched movies and kissed like couples who were going to get married the next day. I was the only 15-year-old girl dancing on cloud nine because of what I felt for Carlo. He was one of the heartthrobs in our high school batch, and he was all mine. And he adored me.

After three or four months, I was getting tired of the relationship. I realized I was falling out of love. I didn't answer his calls and made nasty excuses. I realized that I no longer fancied the things he was doing. I no longer enjoyed anything about the guy.

He phoned me almost every minute and sounded really pathetic, and this really annoyed me. My love was like dried leaves and twigs that fell in autumn, lifeless and hopeless. I was as callous as a hired killer. He remained a thing in my past, those childhood days when my mind was frail and my heart was daft.

Months passed. Despite the unpleasant end of our little affair, he was nice to me. But the smile that used to make butterflies flutter in my stomach ruined my day. I was mad at him and wished that he had never existed. I did not know why.

One day my *barkada* was invited by some guy friends to a disco party. I knew Carlo was going to be there. I knew he would come up to me again with a witless pick-up line just so he could chat with me.

We arrived at the party and I saw him. He was drunk. In his right hand was the butt of a cigarette waiting to be thrown and in his left was a bottle of Miller. He was dancing near the pool and singing out loud Bob Marley's "No Woman No Cry" which was playing on the sound system. I was ashamed of what my friends would say.

He looked at me and quickly looked away as if he had seen nothing. I felt insulted. I had not seen this side of him before.

Bothered and ashamed, I had a drink and then another, and still another until I found myself drunk, dancing and laughing with the others.

I was dancing like crazy and having a great time when a familiar face appeared. Then he held me by my elbow and asked if I was okay. He led me away and made me face him as he went down on one knee. He held my face in his hands and looked straight into my eyes. It wasn't Carlo that I was looking at, it was my first love. I stared back at him, daring him to kiss me once more.

I don't know if he ever did. The next thing I knew I was on the way home with my friends.

Weeks later, I dialed his number. I guess I missed him. We talked but things just were not the same again.

One night, a mutual friend called to say Carlo was joining his family in Davao and staying there for good. It made me sad. It made me cry. I knew that I was going to miss him terribly especially since I was falling for him again.

I called him that night. I asked twice, maybe thrice why he had to go. But who was I to stop him? I couldn't even say goodbye. We just hung up.

The day after we talked, the plane he was riding in crashed. There were no survivors. I lost my Carlo. I lost him forever.

It's been two years and I have loved him more since he died. I never knew how much I wanted him until he was gone. I know I can't keep loving him forever but he surely will always have a special place in my heart.

Ching, 19, is an incoming junior at the College of the Holy Spirit.

Is it the twilight or high noon of democracy?

WHAT are we to make of the recent stirrings in the trial of a deposed president? Do we have a thug telling the judge to quit? Or an accused setting down the conditions under which he wants to be judged...or else? And, horror of horrors, have we senators who, having voted to suppress evidence one year ago in the most ethically despicable manner, invoke judicial ethics?

If the headlines are faithful to the event, then this represents a fundamental assault on our democratic system. Our response to this will define where we as a nation are headed. If a thug who threatens mayhem gets this accommodation, we clearly are in the twilight of accountability and clearly headed toward perdition. Civilized society, after all, is a superstructure of relations, contracts and exchanges built upon the foundation of rules. If those rules and/or their enforcement are nonexistent, the foundation crumbles and, therefore, civilized society collapses. A thug who gets his way in court is at once lawmaker, judge and jury. No matter that one is kicked ignominiously out of the presidency, one can still make like a king. Mob power is the trump card. A prescription for chaos if there ever was one.

When the 18th century Enlightenment ruptured the entrenched idea of Sovereign in favor of Citizen, the greatest fear of advocate and foe alike was the "rule of the mob." For many thinkers, the defining objection to democracy could have been embodied in the slogan "The Leviathan is dead, long live the Anti-Leviathan." The Anti Anti-Leviathan was chaos, the Hobbesian "state of war" where life is "cruel nasty, brutish and short." Sovereign, after all, was the one known fixed point of the Social Universe: for better if he/she was benevolent, for worse if he/she was Ivan the Terrible. Everyone else was accountable to the Sovereign. The Sovereign, however, was accountable only to God.

This, the new thinkers found abhorrent. Everyone must be accountable. How is accountability to be anchored if there is no king, i.e., in a democracy? Here, the thinkers declared, the fixed point is the delicious if amorphous idea of the "sovereign will of the people" embodied, in its advanced stage, in the constitution and the laws of the land. Accountability is ultimately to the constitutional courts of law or tribunals of justice. Without these, accountability is dead and neither Sovereign nor Democracy has a reason for being. The Supreme Court is the last bulwark of accountability. If it sells out or buckles, what hope is there?

What this sordid gallery of barkers proves loud and clear is that today's Supreme Court, unlike yesterday's, has no price. The same should be said of the Supreme Court-appointed Sandiganbayan Special Division hearing the case. They defy the cynical and self-flagellatory declaration that in our society, "everyone has a price." That defiance is out of order. If the tribunal and the Supreme Court can be cajoled, threatened, bamboozled and eventually paid off, the lapdogs won't be unleashed and the political sabers won't be rattled.

But the Supreme Court, once upon a time dragged down to the gutter by a previous chief justice, is now showing all the signs of recovered rectitude and that, to those accustomed to envelopmental ethics, is unethical. We must rally around the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan. In their hands lie our hope. There is absolutely no trade-off here. A democracy that is so timorous of its survival that it retreats from its commitment to uphold accountability has no reason to exist. If thugs get their way here, it is really the twilight of democracy. If, on the other hand, the Supreme Court stares down the veiled threats and upholds its historic role or, even better, throws the garrulous thugs to jail for contempt, it will truly be the high noon of democracy. And our champions will be upright when the smoke clears.

—RAUL V. FABELLA, School of Economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC

Help for grieving daughter

REGARDING your newspaper's article on the death of Macaria Borlagdatan at the age of 109 in Malilipot, Albay (PDI, 4/11/02), please forward the enclosed P600 to her surviving daughter, Adela, to help her pay her debts.

I was deeply touched by the story in the INQUIRER and I am pleased to help. I hope this gesture will ease some of her pain in a very difficult time.

—A SCOTTISH NATIONAL

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Meaning of May 1 commemoration

MAY 1, International Labor Day, is a living symbol of the historic struggle of workers against class exploitation. It stands for the revolutionary role of the working class in social change.

On that day, the streets, factories and communities will be filled with the voices of workers, declaring to the world their class unity and reminding it that May First was ignited by the struggle of the Eight-Hour Movement of workers at Hay Market Square in Chicago.

There is much profound meaning in commemorating May First, especially at this time when the crisis besetting Filipino workers and the people is intense, as is the global crisis of capitalism.

Workers' wages continue to be pegged to the floor, while the prices of basic commodities and rates of public utilities and social services continue to rise because of bankrupt, neo-liberal economic policies.

Contractualization was made widespread, as well as casualization and other forms of flexible labor.

Aside from suffering low wages and inhumane work conditions, workers have been stripped of their rights to unionize, and to take action in defense of their democratic rights.

The Macapagal administration, like its predecessors, maintains and even sharpens the fangs of the anti-labor laws which are used as a license to attack and dismantle pickets and strikes of workers. Among these anti-labor laws are the BP 130 and 227, as well as RA 6715, as well as other laws that legalize contractualization and other forms of flexible labor agreements.

In the meantime, laws that are supposed to protect the health and safety of workers are toothless, useless in the face of the determination and greed of capitalists to increase their profits a thousandfold. In fact, the eight-hour workday that workers were able to win a century before is now being waylaid by big businesses and the government which represents their interests. It's no longer unusual that workers put in more than 12 hours a day, particularly those in the export processing zones, industrial enclaves and in industrial parks where foreign investors congregate. Workers are also forced to work without safety devices and without orientation regarding the hazards they face at work.

At present, because of the capitalists' determination to quicken and increase production (and thus also increase profits), the number of workers who fall ill, get involved in accidents and even die from work-related causes also increase.

The relentless exploitation and attacks against workers' economic and democratic rights should be met with the united and strong stand and action of workers. It is in their unity that the strength of workers lie. This is the truth born on the historic day of May First, the International Day of the working class.

—ELMER LABOG, national secretary general, Kilusang Mayo Uno, 63 Narra St., Barangay Claro, Project 3, Quezon City

Erap mistaking justice for mercy

WE would like to publicly affirm our confidence in the integrity and professional excellence of Chief Justice Hilario Davide. During the time of painful accusations and debate concerning Joseph Estrada, his conduct of the impeachment hearings was an honor to our country.

The demand of deposed President Joseph Estrada for the resignation of Chief Justice Davide and Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban and Antonio Carpio is preposterous. It is Estrada who is on trial, not the Chief Justice.

If our government officials do not expedite the legal proceedings of these cases in a responsible manner, our judicial system will be judged harshly.

Why the demand for these resignations now? The day after the accused himself admitted on cable news TV and radio that he signed his name as Jose Velarde, his shocked lawyers quickly shifted to damage control and obfuscation. After submitting himself to the Sandiganbayan, Estrada now tries to discredit the judicial system.

It is not true that he cannot expect justice. It is precisely justice which he and his scheming lawyers fear, for they gave up all hope of an acquittal after Estrada's admission of guilt on national television.

Let us not be distracted by any more diversionary tactics. Estrada confuses justice with mercy and compassion. Is it just for him to stay in a presidential suite with air-conditioning and sumptuous meals while other prisoners awaiting trial spend time in crowded jails with a food allowance of P50 per day?

So much is at stake in our country now, including our sovereignty and our sense of nationhood. So much wrong is tolerated because too many are silent while others act out of self-interest or convenience. This is no time for theatrics or more delaying tactics. It is time to fulfill a responsibility to the people in the Philippines: to conduct a fair trial and prove that we are capable of working through this highly politicized case. The world is watching us.

—WITH 20 SIGNATORIES, c/o The Maryknoll Sisters, UP PO Box 235, 1104 Diliman, Quezon City

A reason for optimism

I READ with interest an article in your April 13 issue titled, "Yuppies do their part for underprivileged grads."

Like many others, I left the country in 1980 for greener pastures in the United States but I plan to return in two years' time when my two children will go to college and my husband and I retire.

My personal observation from my frequent home visits is that after 22 years not much has changed in terms of job opportunities and the dignity of labor in our country. There are reportedly four million unemployed and many are losing their jobs with the advent of globalization and worldwide recession. Many continue to duplicate what I did in 1980, working and living abroad.

The experiences of Edsa I and II have made Filipinos proud for ousting two powerful and erring presidents. In these gatherings, there was a strong clamor for change both in the government and in public morality.

We must do more than just pray and hope that there will be positive changes in our country. At last, there is an encouraging and more concrete effort by the young professionals banding together as Professionals Actively Responding Today (PART) by way of addressing the needs of the underprivileged young generation—preparing and equipping young graduates to find better jobs.

The more privileged from among the 383,890 graduates this year naturally will come from the Ateneo, De La Salle, University of Asia and the Pacific and the University of the Philippines. They have the competitive advantage and will get first preference for top job positions as management trainees in banks and multinationals.

Those who graduate from public schools other than UP have poor chances of landing high-paying jobs. They lack the confidence, skills and knowledge to match their counterparts from private schools.

Why is there a disparity in the quality of education in private and public schools? Is this being addressed by our government?

This group called PART cannot seem to wait for an answer. They went into action. The results may not be easily quantified but definitely they are trying to help solve this problem by empowering young graduates to find better jobs in their own fields of study.

They are also making representations with some companies to look into the batch of graduates they have trained for possible job positions. They will need the private and business sectors' support.

I hope PART's initiative will start the ball rolling for all other professionals, even the not so young, to share their time and talent and actively participate in its many endeavors including renovation of daycare centers, health checks and tutorials for street children, how to start a business and assistance to the Mangyan Heritage Center among others.

—EVELYN CAPALAD, 8902 Kindlewood, Houston, Texas, USA

Cry for help from Culion

I AM a leper with three children. Two of them are in school. My oldest son did not go to school anymore because we have no more money to spend on his schooling.

A daughter is in fourth year high school. She is graduating but we have no money to pay her graduation fee and to buy her graduation attire.

My youngest son is in Grade 4. He is second in his class. He has no shoes (he is size 5). He needed a presentable pair of long khaki pants and a white polo shirt and T-shirt for the award-giving ceremony last March 21, but we could not give him those things.

I cannot work very hard because of my health.

To those who read this letter, please help us out in Jesus' name. Any small amount or some used clothes, shoes and Maggi, sugar and milk will be very useful to us. May the Lord bless you for your kindness and generosity.

—ANDRES MAGNO, Plaza Baza Street, Culion Proper, 5315 Palawan

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US pilot bombed Canadians thinking he was under fire

WASHINGTON—A US F-16 fighter pilot dropped a 227-kilogram laser-guided bomb on Canadian troops engaged in a live-fire exercise in southern Afghanistan because he thought he was under hostile fire, a US defense official said Thursday.

Four Canadians were killed and eight wounded in the bombing, the latest and one of the worst in a string of "friendly fire" incidents that have marred the six-month old US-led campaign in Afghanistan, officials said.

The Canadians were conducting the exercise in a known training area 14 km south of Kandahar when they came under attack late Wednesday, but it was not known whether the F-16 pilot or his air controller were aware of it, the US defense official said.

"It was a known exercise area so we will have to look at it very closely," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The trouble began when a flight of two F-16 fighters on a nighttime mission over Afghanistan reported taking fire from the ground, the official said. They were given permission by their air controller to mark the target, he said.

"When they went back to mark the target, they reported taking fire again and the wingman of the two fighters decided that in self-defense he should drop, and he dropped one 500-pound bomb," the official said.

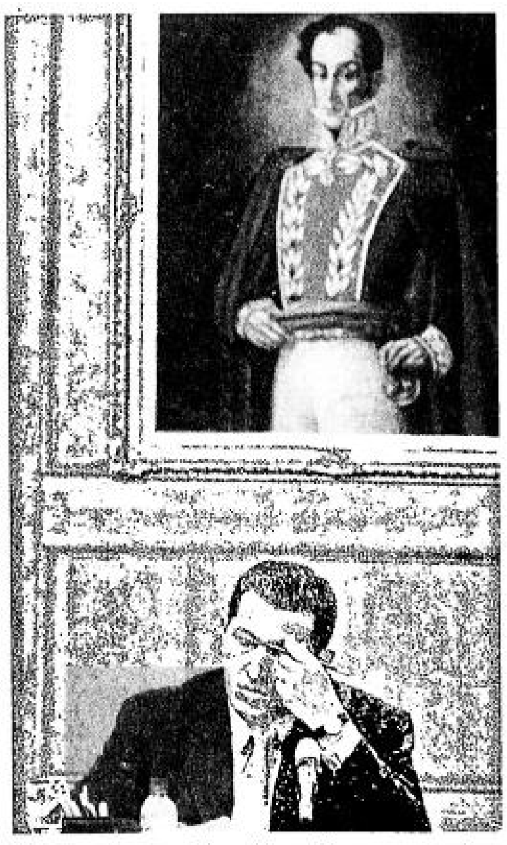
"Unfortunately what was below them was a Canadian live fire exercise."

The Canadians had declared the training area, and airspace above it, a restricted operating zone, the official said, but whether and how that information was communicated to other forces operating in the theater is under investigation by the US Central Command.

President George W. Bush said he expressed his "deepest sorrow and sympathy" to Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien in a phone call.

"We will draw every possible lesson from what happened and do everything we can to protect coalition forces engaged in this vitally important mission," the president vowed in a statement released by the White House. *AFP*

Shaken Chavez 'sheathes sword'



VENEZUELA President Hugo Chavez preparing to open the first session of the Federal Council of Government in Caracas, April 18. AFP

CARACAS, Venezuela—President Hugo Chavez, shaken by a military coup he only narrowly survived, appealed on Thursday for an end to Venezuela's crisis, saying he had "sheathed" his sword and hoped never to draw it again.

One minute lecturing opposition leaders, the next urging them to join a "great debate" on Venezuela's future, the populist soldier-turned-president also said he would never again wear his "beloved" military battle dress.

"My appeal to the country and to all sectors of the country is not that they help me sheathe my sword. No, I have sheathed it. I am asking now that they never make me draw it again. It is my appeal. I want to put it away for ever," Chavez said.

Chavez likes to appear in his red paratrooper's beret and camouflage uniform, but dissident military officers complain that as a former paratroop officer who staged a bloody coup attempt in 1992, he has no right to wear it in public.

The outspoken leader said his decision to hang it up was a "symbol" to the country and that he made it last weekend, when he was being held by officers who led the coup against him.

"I never want to wear my beloved uniform again," he said.

Chavez was speaking a week after around half a million people joined a protest march against his autocratic rule. At least 17 people were killed when security forces and armed civilians fired on the march and, hours later, a group of angry military officers pushed Chavez from power.

He bounced back two days later when street protests by his mainly poor supporters and a rebellion of loyalist military units forced the coup leaders to back down and set him free. *Reuters*

UNDATED file photo of Blake in a scene from the popular 1970s TV detective series "Baretta." AFP

Actor Robert Blake accused of killing wife

LOS ANGELES—Actor Robert Blake, the tough cop on the hit US TV show "Baretta," was arrested on Thursday and accused of shooting his wife to death almost a year ago with police saying they wanted to seek the death penalty.

Los Angeles TV stations broke into regular programming as if to herald a new celebrity murder case in the land of O.J. Simpson.

"Robert Blake shot Bonny Bakley to death," police Capt. Jim Tatreau told a news conference. "We believe that Robert Blake had contempt for Bonny Bakley and he felt he was trapped in a marriage he wanted no part of . . . It's a hit by a husband."

Blake, a cute former child star of the "Our Gang" comedies who gained fame as the gritty Tony Baretta in the 1970s detective series, was arrested at his sister's home in suburban Hidden Hills. He was taken to an unmarked police car in a white T-shirt, green cap and handcuffs for the long ride to downtown police headquarters.

Officers also arrested the actor's bodyguard, Earle Caldwell, and charged him with conspiracy to commit murder even though he was out of town the night of the slaying.

Bonny Lee Bakley, 44, was shot to death on May 4, 2001 as she sat in the 68-year-old actor's sports car on a dark street near his favorite restaurant where they both had eaten.

Blake has always denied he was the killer and has portrayed Bakley as a celebrity hound who often conned men out of money in lonely heart schemes. *Reuters*

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Plane hits Milan tower; 9/11 repeat ruled out

MILAN—A small plane smashed into a Milan skyscraper on Thursday, killing at least three people and injuring dozens in what Italian officials called an accident and not a repeat of the Sept. 11 suicide attacks.

The 67-year-old pilot of the propeller-driven plane reported problems with his landing gear shortly before plowing into the building and devastating upper floors of the slender, 30-story office block that towers above Italy's financial capital.

Police said a woman leapt to her death as smoke billowed from the scarred top of the building and the headless body of a man was found at the scene. Officials said the pilot was among the victims.

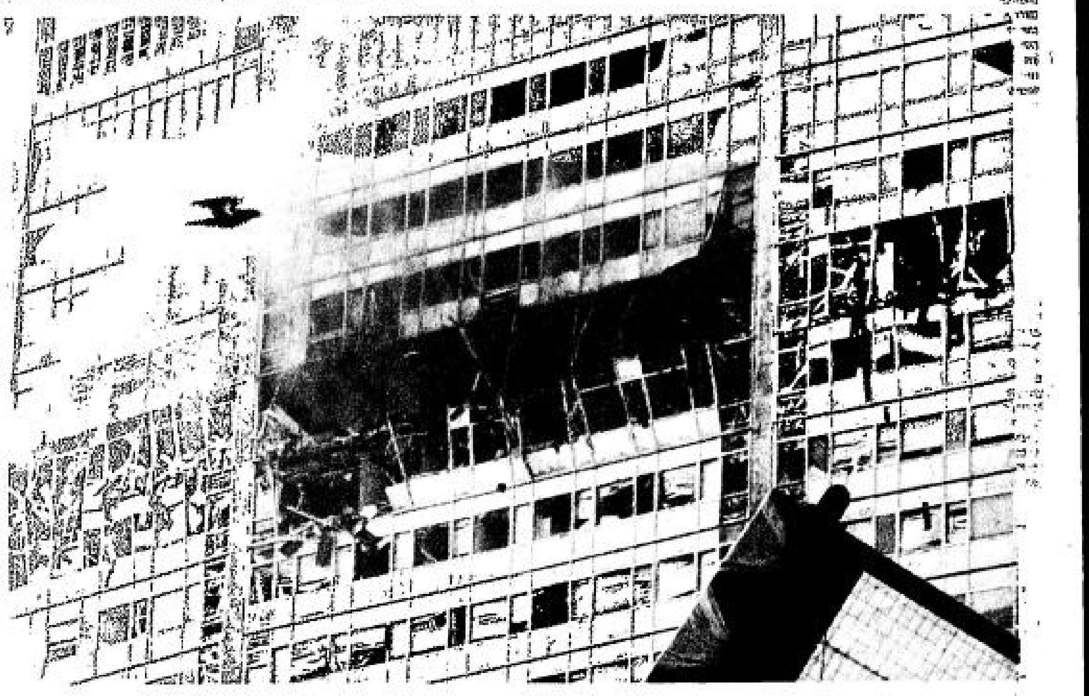
Civil servant Maurizio Sala was on the 20th floor when two explosions shook his building at around 5:45 p.m.

"We all rushed to the window and we suddenly realized it was something similar to the World Trade towers (attack in New York) because thousands of pieces of paper were flying through the air. It was the same image," he said.

Milan's tallest building houses the local regional government, providing offices for 1,750 people, but by a stroke of luck the top five floors were nearly empty when the plane struck because they were being renovated.

The pilot, named variously as Luigi Fasulo or Gino Fasulo, took off from the nearby southern Swiss town of Locarno bound for Linate airport on the outskirts of Milan, but radioed in with an undercarriage problem as he approached the city in bright spring sunshine.

Italy's civil aviation body said in a statement that air traffic controllers told Fasulo to head west, but for reasons that have yet to be determined, he headed north into the city, telling the control tower that he was resolving the problem. *Reuters*



SMOKE continues to billow as a bird flies by the damaged Pirelli skyscraper after a small Piper tourist plane smashed into the 25th floor of the building in Milan, April 18. AFP

Koizumi party hit by new scandal

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's scandal-tainted ruling party suffered a new blow on Friday with the resignation of the speaker of parliament's Upper House over allegations that an aide took kickbacks.

The affair is the latest in a rash of scandals in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that have sparked a slide in Koizumi's popularity ratings—his main weapon against LDP old guard rivals who oppose his agenda for economic and political reforms.

Upper House speaker Yutaka Inoue—who has denied the allegations—resigned from his position as speaker after threats by opposition parties to boycott business in the chamber.

Inoue, in a closed-door session with ruling and opposition lawmakers on Thursday, denied allegations by a magazine this month that an aide had received hefty kickbacks from a construction firm in connection with a public works project.

Top government spokesperson Yasuo Fukuda told a news conference that the impact on parliamentary business could not be ignored.

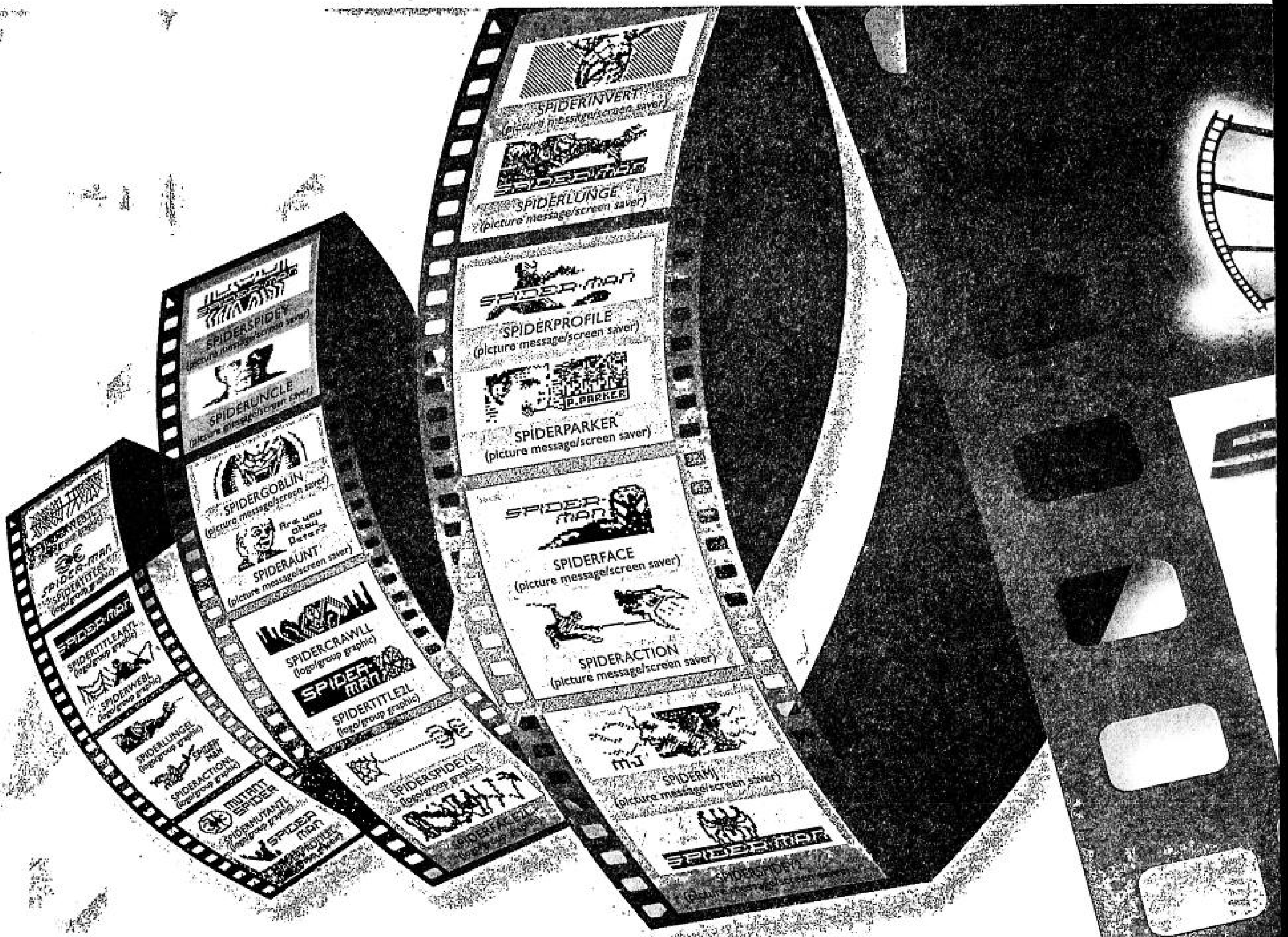
"We expect the Upper House to make every effort to avoid confusion," Fukuda said, before Inoue resigned.

LDP Secretary General Taku Yamasaki told a news conference the decision on whether to resign had been up to Inoue, but media said Upper House heavyweight Mikio Aoki had met Koizumi to discuss the issue.

Koizumi soared to power one year ago, buoyed by promises to clean up the long-ruling party and revive the stagnant economy.

But doubts over his commitment to reform, the sacking in January of his popular foreign minister and the LDP scandals have slashed Koizumi's ratings in opinion polls to close to 40 percent from the heady 90 percent seen when he first took office.

Japanese voters have been treated to an almost daily diet of scandals since Koizumi sacked the controversial Makiko Tanaka as foreign minister to end a feud with diplomats and their LDP backers that had threatened the enactment of the state budget. *Reuters*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* Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

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Sample trivia question:
Where was Peter Parker when he was bitten by a mutant spider?
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2. Cleaning the attic
3. On a fieldtrip
4. At the science laboratory

Note: If you're playing a SMART Cinema Club game, quit first before you start the trivia game. To quit, key in **QUIT** and send to 239.

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   - 250 winners will be awarded a Spider-Man T-shirt and a pair of Spider-Man special screening tickets.
   - Winners will be drawn on April 25, 2002. They will be notified via a voice call through their registered SMART celfone number on April 25 and 26, 2002.
   - Winners may claim their tickets on the day of the special screening: April 30, 2002, 7-9 pm, at the SMART Cinema Club Booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3). They must bring a valid I.D. and their winning SMART SIM card and SMART celfone.
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   - To claim the tickets, winners must bring their SMART Money receipt (for face-to-face purchases) or SMART Money card (for remote purchases) on April 30, 2002, 7-9 pm, at the SMART Cinema Club Booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3).
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1. Join the SMART Cinema Club by keying in JOIN CINEMA and send to 239.
2. Download a Spider-Man icon from April 15-May 15, 2002, to earn a raffle entry. The more downloads, the more entries earned.
3. Winners will get their prizes via registered mail.
4. Promo is valid nationwide.

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1. From 7-9 pm, on the night of the special screening, April 30, 2002, one (1) Nokia 6210, a Spider-Man T-shirt and a pair of special screening tickets will be awarded to the person who brings the oldest Spider-Man comic book.
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Amtrak train derails in Florida; 6 killed

CRESCENT CITY, Fla.—An Amtrak train carrying 468 people derailed in northeast Florida on Thursday, killing at least six and trapping dozens of others for hours inside a jagged tangle of overturned cars, officials said.

State emergency management officials said six people had been killed aboard the Auto Train, which was packed with mainly senior citizens. More than 100 people were treated for injuries at hospitals, including facilities in Jacksonville and Orlando, Amtrak, the federally subsidized national passenger railroad, said.

At least 20 people were hurt critically enough to be airlifted from the scene, officials said. Many of those with minor injuries were treated at a local high school.

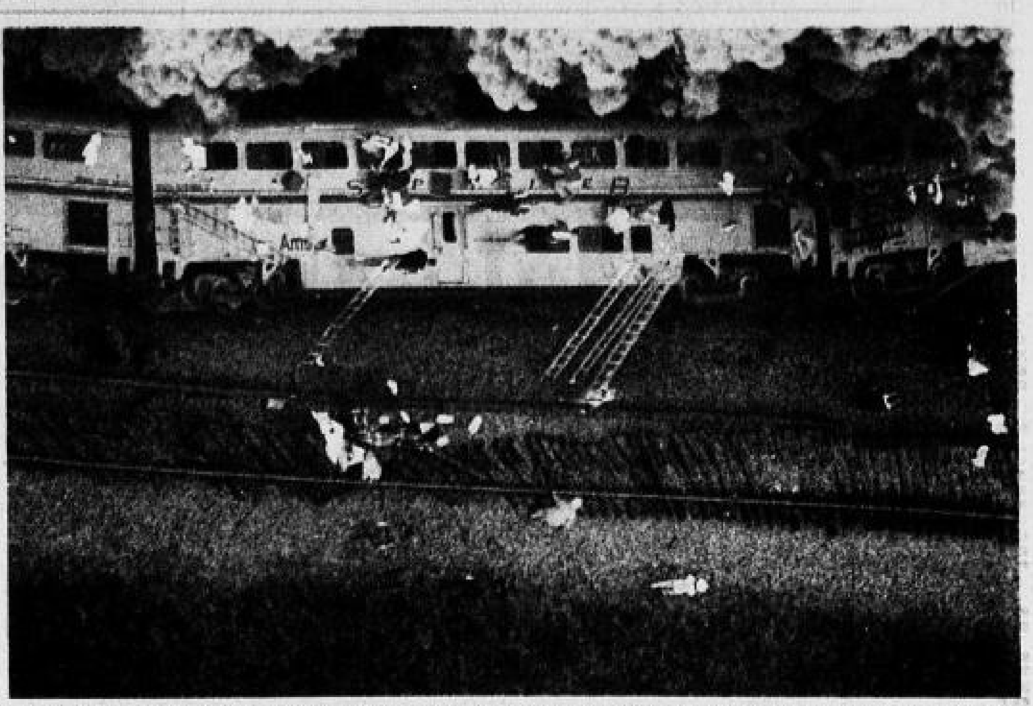
Rescue workers from four counties scrambled to pull passengers from several cars that had fallen on their sides in a zigzag pattern along a stretch of demolished track.

Passengers on the popular overnight run from an Orlando suburb to the outskirts of Washington told a local television station they heard brakes screeching and then saw people bouncing off the walls as the cars flipped.

Some passengers crawled through windows to escape, while 75 were trapped inside, said spokesperson Chris Doyle of the Florida Emergency Response Team.

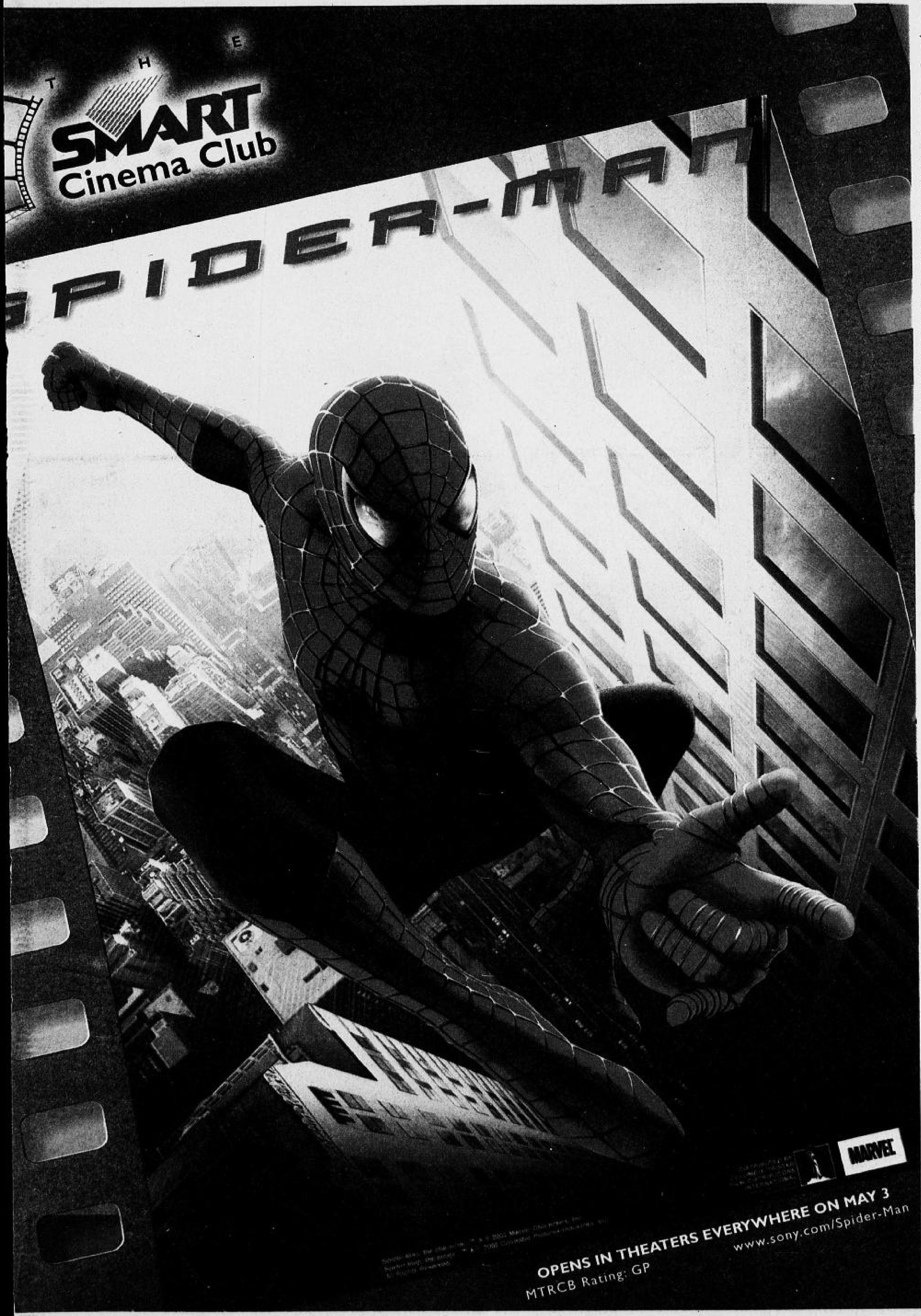
Several hours after the crash, Amtrak said emergency officials had cleared passengers from the train. The railroad worked through the night to track down those who were taken some distance to hospitals or who left the area on their own.

Amtrak said there were 440 passengers and 28 crew members aboard. It was a reserved train, so Amtrak has a passenger manifest to work from. ***Reuters***



RESCUE crews work to extricate victims from a derailed Amtrak Auto Train April 18 in Crescent City, some 97 km north of Orlando, Florida.

AFP



Respect will of Taiwan, China urged

CHINA should "respect the will and approval" of the 23 million people of Taiwan as part of the peaceful resolution of their longstanding dispute, according to the European Parliament.

In a resolution passed on April 11, the European Parliament called for "a peaceful resolution" of the cross-strait dispute through "negotiation, dialogue and confidence-building measures without any threat of force."

The resolution emphasized that "a peaceful resolution to the Taiwan question is crucial if political and economic stability in the region is to be reinforced and maintained in the medium- to long-term."

Taiwan Foreign Minister Eugene Chien welcomed the resolution. Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Katharine Chang also lauded the move, saying that "this is a very friendly gesture."

The European Parliament resolution is very significant, said Chang, because this is "the first time that the West stated in writing that any solution to the cross-strait issue should respect the approval of the people of Taiwan."

Chang noted that former US President Bill Clinton made a similar remark on Feb. 24, 2000 when he mentioned for the first time the "fourth pillar" of US policy toward China, namely, that the cross-strait situation should be resolved with the consent of the people of Taiwan.

The resolution pointed out that "any arrangement between China and Taiwan can only be achieved on a mutually acceptable basis," while the process leading up to the solution requires both the "willingness to demonstrate flexibility . . . and the capacity to be imaginative in proposing steps to resume dialogue."

The resolution urged both sides to activate direct mail services, trade, air and shipping links across the Straits as soon as possible in order to promote all types of exchanges and other confidence-building measures.

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Gov't to take full control of power co-op

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—The Department of Energy yesterday threw its support to the full takeover of the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) by the National Electrification Administration (NEA).

In a statement, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. appealed to Akelco general manager Leovigildo Mationg and the board of directors to "cooperate and work closely with (the) NEA to address the problems affecting the cooperative."

The NEA assumed full control of the Akelco on Thursday after Fr. Francisco Silva, NEA administrator, declared all members of the cooperative's board of directors inactive.

Silva made the announcement near the conclusion of a joint public hearing of the House committees on energy and good government on alleged irregularities and mismanagement at the Akelco.

Local officials led by Gov. Florencio Miraflores and officials of the Akelco, the National Power Corp., the NEA, the energy department and consumer groups attended the hearing held at the Casa Pilar here.

Silva appointed Wilfredo Billena, general manager of the Iloilo Electric Cooperative I, as executive officer to run the debt-ridden cooperative until elections for members of the nine-member board of directors are held.

Billena, who was named outstanding general manager out of the 119 cooperatives for the past two years, was surprised over his appointment. "I have to consult with Father (Francisco) Silva (over) our plans," he said.

Silva said that despite the NEA's takeover, "it will be the people of Aklan who will solve their problems."

While he acknowledged that the takeover would not resolve the province's electricity problems, Miraflores said the move was a "big step in the right direction."

The full takeover was one of the demands of Boracay resort owners and residents to solve the province's power crisis.

But Mationg insisted that he was "still the general manager" despite the takeover.

Judson Mayor, Akelco management consultant, accused Silva of "grave abuse of authority."

"This was no longer a hearing because the committee members were urging (the) NEA to take over . . . they already prejudged the case," he said.

But Karen Reina, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), welcomed the order. "Thank you, thank you," said the teary-eyed Reina.

The BFI is a group representing owners of restaurants, dive shops, supermarkets, banks and market stalls in this island-resort.

Boracay residents, including owners of at least 200 resorts and restaurants, are the largest stakeholders of Akelco's 59,753 member-consumers.

Mationg has been accused of turning the Akelco from among the cooperatives belonging to the Class A category to Class E, the lowest.

The crisis reached its peak last month after a three-day blackout hit the province when the Napocor cut off electricity for the failure of the cooperative to settle its debts reaching P109 million.

The blackout, which started on March 18, affected Aklan's 17 towns, including Boracay Island and two municipalities of Antique.

Power was restored on March 20 after a three-member NEA management team took over the operations of the cooperative but the brownouts continued.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI34° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 28°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 27°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/20/02

ROUNDUP

Stolen vehicles

DAVAO CITY—The Traffic Management Group (TMG) in Southern Mindanao impounded two pick-up vehicles here which had the same registry plate numbers (TDL 650), one of which was reportedly owned by a mayor in Cebu City. Supt. Romeo Laurinaria, TMG chief here, said one of the impounded vehicles' plate numbers might have been tampered with after it was stolen. The two red Nissan pick-ups were registered to Mayor Antonio Canoy of San Fernando, Cebu and Bernardo Wong, an employee of the Air Transportation Office. Wong's vehicle was impounded last week while Canoy's car was seized on Monday morning.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

8 fishermen charged

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Lawyers from the Tubbataha Management Office, Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development have filed with the Regional Trial Court of Palawan charges of violation of fisheries laws against eight fishermen caught fishing inside the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park last April 3. The lawyers said the suspects violated the Fisheries Code of the Philippines. Park rangers said the fishermen were on board fishing boat Jun V that had been caught twice previously. The fishermen said they were just passing through Tubbataha on their way from Tawi-tawi to Cagayancillo.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Carnival closure urged

BAGUIO CITY—Councilors here have asked Mayor Bernardo Vergara to close a carnival at the Quezon Elementary School here because of illegal gambling. Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia, head of a committee that investigated the gambling in the carnival, said there is ground for Vergara to stop the operation and revoke the permit issued to Abenir Games and Amusement Rides Inc. (Agari). He said Vergara signed a memorandum of agreement with Agari last month without informing the city council.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cafgu terror bared

DAVAO CITY—A Catholic priest yesterday said a "special Cafgu (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit)" within the para-military group is sowing fear among villagers in Arakan Valley in Cotabato. Fr. Fausto Tentorio of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions based in Arakan, said the "Cafgu group within the Cafgu" are asked to do the "dirty work"—to kill people supporting the New People's Army (NPA). Tentorio said the group is creating terror and has already penetrated tribal areas.

Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rotary meeting

DISTRICT Assembly 2002 (Distass 2002), the largest gathering of Rotary Club District 3820, will be held on April 20-21 at the National Arts Center in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. All District 3820 Rotarians, their guests and friends are invited to join the assembly. The registration cost, including lodging fee, is P2,700 per person.

Tagaytay workshop

THE TAGAYTAY Film, Broadcast, and Creative Workshops offers a first-ever series of week-long intensive courses for media enthusiasts from April 29 to May 17, 2002. The workshops is the first of its kind in Asia, showcasing gurus from the fields of cinematography, television, graphic design, digital media, creative writing, and communication strategies. These masters will attempt to draw best results from participants through hands-on training and interaction. Organizers picked Villa Pura and the Development Academy of the Philippines, both in Tagaytay City, as venues for the workshops. Further inquiries may be directed to Vanessa or Joyce of the Creative Media Professionals Guild of the Asia Pacific, 117 Scout Castor, Kamuning, Quezon City, at numbers 925-19-15 to 16.

Gov allied with Erap hit by defections

PAGADIAN CITY—Zamboanga Sibugay Gov. George Hofer has apparently become a general without his foot soldiers after majority of his close allies in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) joined rival party Lakas.

At least 12 out of the province's 16 town mayors and seven of the 13 members of the Provincial Board were scheduled to take their formal oath as Lakas members.

Aside from "foot soldiers," Hofer is also set to lose a "captain" after Vice Gov. Eugenio Famor decided to switch allegiance, too.

Hofer could not be reached to comment on the switch of allegiance, but Lito Quinte, his executive assistance, said the governor was not bothered at all.

"He is preoccupied with his job to alleviate the plight of our poor people. What he needs is to have a direct link with the grass roots," Quinte said.

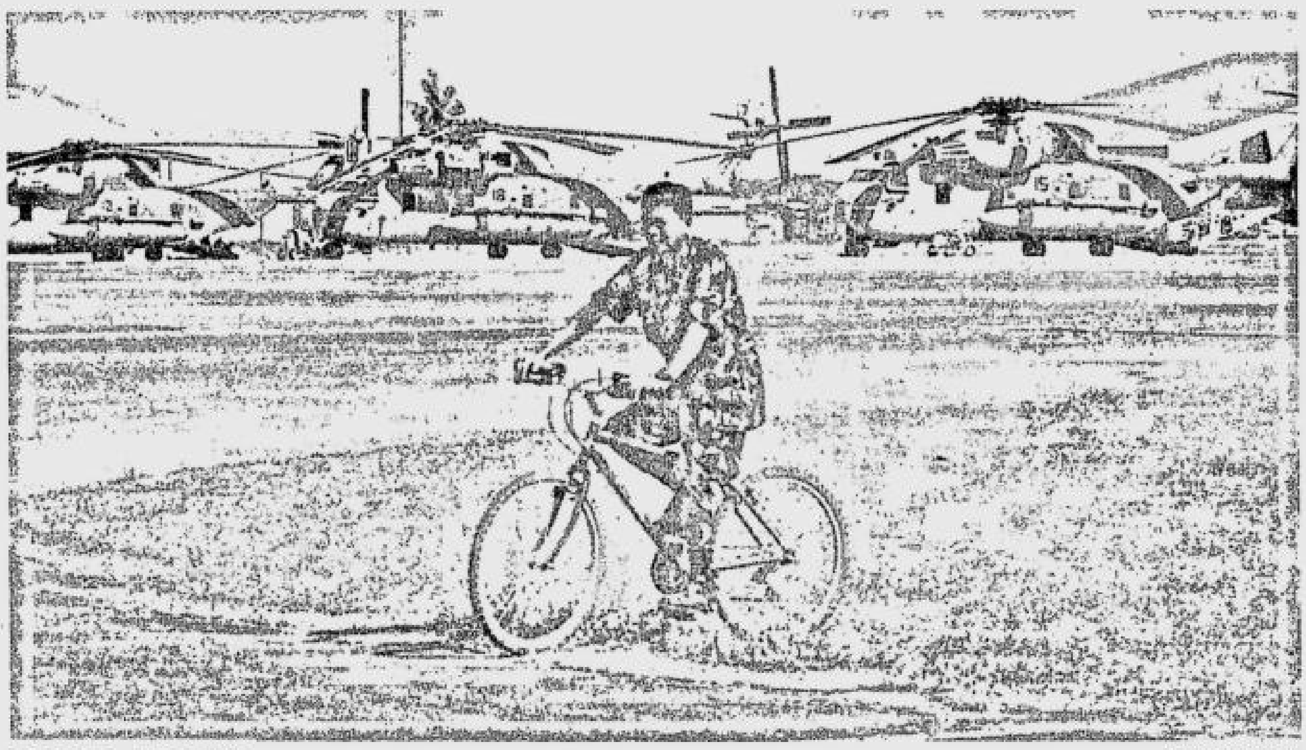
He said Hofer won in past elections with little support from mayors "because it was the people who voted him in."

Famor, a staunch ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said he does not want to be part of "a leadership without a direction."

He said that those who left Hofer gave the same reason.

Raul Famor, deputy regional coordinator of the Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA), said they would schedule a mass oath taking for those who defected to the administration.

President Macapagal's party is part of the Lakas coalition. ***Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



MOVING AROUND

DENNIS SABANGAN

The best way to move around Clark Airbase is still on a bicycle, as this Filipino soldier demonstrates.

Gov declares status quo in Bulacan town mayoral row

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BALIUAG, Bulacan—Buoyed up by an order from Gov. Josefina de la Cruz declaring a status quo in this town's mayoral controversy, incumbent Mayor Rolando Salvador continued to hold office at the old municipal hall here.

De la Cruz ordered on Thursday concerned agencies to transact business with Salvador, who was unseated last week by a local court, until the decision on his case is final.

"No final resolution, order or decision has been issued by the court or any lawful authorities. Neither there is any resolution, order or decision ordering the incumbent mayor to cease and desist from exercising his authority as the local chief of Baliuag," De la Cruz said in her order.

Former Vice Mayor Romeo Estrella took over the mayor's post on Wednesday after Judge Victoria Pornillos of the Malolos regional trial court declared him winner in the May 2001 elections. Estrella had been holding office at the new municipal hall.

Since Thursday, all department heads had moved out to the old municipal building, 800 meters from the new municipal hall, to conduct business.

Only the office of the municipal board and its employees were left at the new municipal hall.

Estrella, who took his oath before Executive Judge Oscar Herrera on Tuesday, refused to yield to the Commission on Elections *en banc* order preventing Pornillos from issuing more orders on the case.

The Comelec directive, signed by Chair Alfredo Benipayo, implied that Pornillos' writ of execution order was not valid, municipal hall observers said.

Estrella ordered all employees to resume work on Wednesday and recognize him as the duly elected mayor.

Members of the League of Municipalities in Bulacan expressed shock over the court decision installing Estrella as mayor.

League president, Mayor Ramon Pagdanganan of Calumpit town, and the other mayors held a press conference at Sulu Hotel in Quezon City on Friday to denounce what they called Pornillos' "unbelievable decision."

Because of the court decision, local officials have the notion that there is no need to campaign for the elections anyway they can file an election protest, Pagdanganan said.

He asked the Department of Interior and Local Government to immediately resolve the tension between the supporters of Salvador and Estrella.

Pampanga vice gov vows release of ₱700M for infra projects

PAMPANGA Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo said yesterday he has worked out the release of about P700 million for various infrastructure projects in the province during his first year in office.

In a statement, the young Arroyo said he made the disclosure in his accomplishment report to the people of Pampanga.

Arroyo said the biggest bulk of the budget totaling P500 million is being poured into the desilting and improvement of the Guagua-Pasac river and adjoining waterways to prevent big floods and destructive lahar flows especially during the rainy season.

The President's son said P88 million of the outlay will go to the improvement of government hospitals in the province to serve better the people of Pampanga, especially the needy.

Arroyo said P87 million has also been set aside for the speedy upgrading of the drainage system in the flood-prone Provincial Capital Compound in San Fernando City.

Arroyo, who is also spearheading the Mikey Against Poverty (MAP) program and the full operation of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at Clark, said he has also worked out the release from the national government of P46.1 million for the construction of farm-to-market roads.

The young Arroyo said his various projects are all designed to improve the living conditions of the people of Pampanga.

Arroyo said he is pursuing the various infrastructure projects with the support of Gov. Manuel Lapid and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Arroyo, who is also the presiding officer of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, said he was happy over the support that her mother and her Cabinet gave to the various projects designed to make Pampanga a premier province of the country.

The vice governor also listed among his accomplishments the approval of the Pampanga Investment Code of 2001 designed to attract more investments, foreign and domestic, into Pampanga and provide business and employment opportunities to the people.

Arroyo also spearheaded the investigation of quarrying operations in lahar areas to ensure that the provincial government and the municipal governments affected by the quarrying get proper revenues for their infrastructure projects and services to the people.

Scrapping of subversion law led to coups, says PNP officer

MATI, Davao Oriental—The Aquino administration's scrapping of the Internal Security Act in 1987 was one of the major factors that moved police and military officials to stage a series of *coup d' etat*.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, one of the leaders of the 1987 and the 1989 putsch against the administration of former President Corazon Aquino, told the INQUIRER that the repeal of the anti-subversion law drastically brought down the police and the military's morale.

And he said the fear of those who led the *coup d' etat* is now becoming a reality.

"Our fear before has already come true. With the repeal of the anti-subversion law, the communists are now slowly taking over the government. If (Mrs. Aquino) had just given that law a chance, we would have solved our very serious insurgency problem early and (communist party chief) Jose Maria Sison would have been in jail already now. Look, where is Joma Sison now? Worse, they are enjoying the protection of the law even if their aim is to topple the government," Matillano said after a recent police command conference here.

He said that to avoid demoralization because of the growing communist influence, the Macapagal administration should restore the anti-subversion law.

Matillano said the restoration of the "much needed" anti-subversion law could also prove to be effective in the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

"We have the most serious insurgency problem in Southeast Asia and yet we don't even have an Internal Security Act. It is really funny and ironic that to topple down a government is not considered a heinous crime in this country. With the repeal of our Internal Security Act, the government cannot charge a rebel just because he is a rebel. We can only charge them with common crimes such as murder or illegal possession of firearms or explosives," said Supt. Catalino Cuy, Davao Oriental police provincial director.

Asked by the INQUIRER if the absence of the anti-subversion law could also become a major factor for the military and the police to stage a coup against Macapagal administration, Matillano said: "I don't know."

But he admitted that the police and the military hierarchy have started lobbying before the House of Representatives for the passage of a similar law.

"What we are strongly pushing now is the restoration of that law. We have already talked to some members of the House of Representatives and they assured us it would be revived soon. And we are pushing for a Malaysian or Singaporean model of the anti-subversion law because they are very effective. They are known to be among the toughest anti-insurgency laws in the world," Matillano said.

Under the proposal, Matillano said crimes against national security would be non-bailable and the *writ of habeas corpus* would be suspended.

"These are very important features of the anti-subversion law which we would like the government to adopt," he said.

But the New People's Army said reviving the anti-subversion law is tantamount to declaring a martial law.

"There will be more innocent civilians suspected to be supporters or members of the NPA who will be summarily executed by the military. It is just like restoring the dreaded martial law wherein innocent civilians will be the hardest hit by military atrocities. Restoring that law will only lead to more chaos as the government will be terrorizing the Filipino people," said an NPA spokesperson based in the province. ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

"In the future, these kids can probably solve even the country's toughest problems."

— Dr. George S.K. Ty
Chairman
Metrobank and Metrobank Foundation

Metrobank Foundation, Inc. congratulates the winners of the 2002 Metrobank Math Challenge.

We take immense pride in presenting our outstanding young achievers in Mathematics. Through the Math Challenge and related educational programs, the Foundation helps fulfill Metrobank's corporate social responsibility. With a total cash prize of close to a million pesos in addition to trophies and medals, the Metrobank-MTAP-DepEd-NCR Math Challenge represents our social investment to encourage the youth to excel in Mathematics and be the future economic catalysts of the country.

2002 METROBANK-MTAP-DepEd-NCR MATH CHALLENGE
Complete List of Major Winners

Individual Winners
Elementary Level

GRADE 1
1st Place
Carmela Sio Lao*
St. Jude Catholic School
2nd Place
Vance Ong Go*
St. Jude Catholic School
3rd Place
Alfonso Luis Serafico
La Salle Greenhills

GRADE 2
1st Place
Darwin Ivan Carasco
Pamplona Elementary School
2nd Place
Glenn Carlo Clavel
Zapote Elementary School
3rd Place
Emiliano M. Tan*
Philippine Academy of Sakya

GRADE 3
1st Place
Mary Krystlette Bunyi
St. Benedict College
2nd Place
Nathan Azriel S. Veracruz
Cubao Elementary School
3rd Place
Patrick Huang Ong
St. Jude Catholic School

GRADE 4
1st Place
John Bernard Ong
Grace Christian High School
2nd Place
Carlo Francisco Adajar
Southridge School for Boys
3rd Place
Arnold Lan
Xavier School

GRADE 5
1st Place
Darren Mendell Sy*
Chiang Kai Shek College
2nd Place
Franz Adrian Sy
St. Peter the Apostle School
3rd Place
John Guo
Grace Christian High School

GRADE 6
1st Place
Galvin Lester Dy*
Grace Christian High School
2nd Place
Leo Patrick Teloso*
St. Benedict College
3rd Place
Joanna Francesca Visperas*
St. Benedict College

Individual Winners
Secondary Level

CATEGORY A

First Year
1st Place
Patricia Jacinto*
Poveda Learning Center
2nd Place
Danielle Aragon
Southville International School
3rd Place
Regina V. Gallardo
Malabon National High School

Second Year
1st Place
Jacklyn Diane R. Co*
Ramon Magsaysay HS (Cubao)
2nd Place
Roche Navlamos*
Ramon Magsaysay HS (Cubao)
3rd Place
Clariza Pineda*
Quirino High School

Third Year
1st Place
Ma. Jenie Ruth Amancio*
Ramon Magsaysay HS (Cubao)
2nd Place
Carina Llamas*
Ramon Magsaysay HS (Cubao)
3rd Place
Marlon V. Mendoza
Ernesto Rondon High School

Fourth Year
1st Place
Alwin Del Rosario
Las Piñas East National HS
2nd Place
Mark Joseph Tan
Philippine Pasay Chung Hua Academy
3rd Place
Limuel De Guzman*
Rizal High School

CATEGORY B

First Year
1st Place
Sam Christian Lee*
Chiang Kai Shek College
2nd Place
Deric Justin Tee*
Chiang Kai Shek College
3rd Place
Steven Camina
Southridge School for Boys

Second Year
1st Place
Jose Ramon Bailler*
Philippine Science High School
2nd Place
Alfonso Maputol*
Philippine Science High School
3rd Place
Charles Edric Co
St. Peter the Apostle School

Third Year
1st Place
Ryan Jerome Chua*
Grace Christian High School
2nd Place
Joshua Jen Monzon
Philippine Science HS
3rd Place
Francis Gayon
Quezon City Science HS

Fourth Year
1st Place
Conrad Allan Chong*
Grace Christian High School
2nd Place
Wesley Spencer See*
Chiang Kai Shek College
3rd Place
Reines Reyes
Quezon City Science HS

Team Winners
Elementary Level

GRADE ONE
First Place
St. Jude Catholic School
Second Place
Pamplona Elementary School Central
Third Place
Chiang Kai Shek College

GRADE TWO
First Place
St. Benedict College
Second Place
Philippine Academy of Sakya
Third Place
Chiang Kai Shek College

GRADE THREE
First Place
San Antonio Elementary
Second Place
Chiang Kai Shek College
Third Place
Xavier School

GRADE FOUR
First Place
St. Benedict College
Second Place
Highway Hills Elementary School
Third Place
Philippine Academy of Sakya

GRADE FIVE
First Place
Maypajo Elementary School
Second Place
Grace Christian High School
Third Place
Chiang Kai Shek College

GRADE SIX
First Place
Grace Christian High School
Second Place
Xavier School
Third Place
St. Benedict College

Team Winners
Secondary Level - Category A

First Year
First Place
Lakandula High School
Second Place
Poveda Learning Center
Third Place
Philadelphia School

Second Year
First Place
Ramon Magsaysay HS (Cubao)
Second Place
Las Piñas National High School
Third Place
Quirino High School

Third Year
First Place
University of Perpetual Help (Rizal)
Second Place
Philippine Pasay Chung Hua Academy
Third Place
Ramon Magsaysay HS (Cubao)

Fourth Year
First Place
Judge Juan Luna High School
Second Place
Rizal High School (Main)
Third Place
Sta. Lucia High School (Pasig)

Team Winners
Secondary Level - Category B

First Year
First Place
Grace Christian High School
Second Place
Chiang Kai Shek College
Third Place
Philippine Cultural High School

Second Year
First Place
Philippine Science High School
Second Place
Chiang Kai Shek College
Third Place
Makati Science High School

Third Year
First Place
Chiang Kai Shek College
Second Place
Hope Christian High School
Third Place
Grace Christian High School

Fourth Year
First Place
Chiang Kai Shek College
Second Place
Grace Christian High School
Third Place
Quezon City Science HS

Metrobank Chairman's Award for Excellence

Private Elementary School
Grace Christian High School

Public Elementary School
Pamplona Elementary School Central

Private High School
Chiang Kai Shek College

Public High School
Quezon City Science High School

*Team winners

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0047, Series of 2002

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Cebu keeps close track of kids, blazes trail in health surveys

By Juan L. Mercado
Cebu City

IN THE Visayas, what city mustered scientists and resources to track the health, growth and school achievement of 3,080 children for 19 years now and, in the process, reshaped foreign aid policies and research programs?

FR. WILHELM

Cebu City did.

From 1983 to this day, the "Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey" (CLHNS) followed children, born between May 1, 1983 and April 30, 1984, in 33 Metro Cebu barangays (17 urban, 16 rural). Their 3,237 mothers were determined from 28,000 households.

"Inter-generational studies are extremely rare," biological anthropologist Linda Adair and economist Barry Popkin of the University of North Carolina said in the Culture and Society quarterly. But they have immense policy spin-offs.

"The first World Bank health financing strategy was based, in large part, on research conducted in Cebu City," Adair and Popkin said.

The research was "instrumental in Unicef policy related to breastmilk substitutes and Asian Development Bank programs on early childhood development."

This study-over-a-generation, at last count, spun off 93 major studies, doctoral dissertations and reports. They've been published all over—from Oxford University to the Journal of Development Economics and the World Bank Economic Review.

Studies anchored on the meticulously gathered Cebu data ranged widely. Papers covered infant mortality, growth and health up to the fetal origins of adult diseases.

Economic and social impacts are examined in urbanization, women's health, work, nutrition and husbands' roles.

The man behind the research

Culture and Society's special issue pays tribute to the late Fr. Wilhelm Flieger, SVD, the low-key San Carlos University demographer, who directed the CLHNS. Flieger died in 1999.

"Of all who sat in my class, ("Bill" Flieger) was the student, and later the associate, of whom I was proudest," Harvard University's professor emeritus Nathan Keyfitz wrote. "It is good to hear that the professional work he initiated at (the) Office of Population Studies (OPS), is to be carried forward."

In 1979, the 48-year-old silver-haired priest established the OPS at the Talamban campus of the USC. He was, by then, an acknowledged world expert in mortality research. His reputation as Keyfitz's co-author of "World Population" preceded him.

Flieger trained in the OPS a generation of Filipino demographers. They include Alice Lim, Leonel Deang, M. Abenoja, Josefina Avila and Soccoro Gultiano, now OPS director.

The OPS also published landmark studies. Among these are: "Cebu: A 531 Socioeconomic Profile Based on Census Data" and "The Mountains of Cebu and Their Inhabitants."

Flieger and co-author Daisy Cusi probed in "Mountains of Cebu" the paradox of people clinging to ecologically ravaged uplands over long periods of time, Peter Urich of the New Zealand University of Waikato said.

They demonstrated "a very good future in interdisciplinary research between demography and geographic information systems," he added.

Solid academic credentials, matched by performance, attracted the big league, making up for local government's benign neglect.

Thus, the US National Academy Science, UN, World and Asian Development Banks and the Ford and Mellon Foundations backed the OPS, especially the CLHNS.

Nutrition Institute director (former Cebu mayor) Florentino Solon and the University of North Carolina helped launch the project.

Unique laboratory

This "Queen City of the South" provided a unique laboratory. In less than a decade, Metro Cebu's population "imploded" by 34 percent. Yet, only 4 percent never attended school.

And only half of households have piped water. A dismal 65 percent of homes have water-sealed toilets.

Child malnutrition cuts a savage swath. "Stunting is highly prevalent among Cebu children," the World Health Organization said. It increases dramatically in the 4-12 month period of an infant's life.

"By age 2, about 69 percent of rural children, and 62 percent of those in urban areas, are stunted," the UN agency added.

A majority of the CLNHS respondents participated in the follow-up study in 1991, when the kids were 8 years old, and again in 2001. Re-surveys will be conducted this year and in 2004.

Children of the CLHNS, which has been ongoing for 19 years, are "in transition to adulthood." Some dropped out of school. Others are now parents. And a few have died.

"In the last decade, important social, economic, and health changes occurred in the Philippines," Adair and Popkin said. "These are reflected in the Cebu sample."

Among the new issues are obesity, heart disease, domestic violence and adolescent sexuality.

The population is also aging.

By mid-century, the number of 85-year-olds and older in less advanced countries, like the Philippines, will be about 7 percent, UP demography professor emeritus Mercedes Concepcion said.

Priest-scholars

Father Flieger stands in a long tradition of priest-scholars, a Sun.Star Cebu editorial said.

In that line, the daily recalled, stand men like Antonio Pigaffeta, historian (who came to Cebu with Miguel de Legazpi); Padre Faura, astronomer; Rodolf Rahman, anthropologist; Miguel Selga, mathematician; Horacio de la Costa, historian; Catalino Arevalo, theologian; and Frank Madigan, demographer.

But do Cebu's leaders today make this "remarkable self-effacing scholarship the cutting edge for policy?" the paper asked. Failure to do so would be tantamount to "casting pearls before swine."

1,500 co-ops nationwide start bid to become 'big'

By Reina Marie C. Bernaldez
Cebu City

WHY be small when we can be big? This is the question some 1,500 cooperatives grappled with over the past two years and have now resolved.

Exactly 1,485 primary co-ops affiliated with the National Confederation of Cooperatives (Natcco) are launching in May a new network logo to be adopted under an initiative dubbed "One Name, One Logo, One Brand."

This is a first in the country's 100-year-old cooperative movement, which has long been associated with *sari-sari* store-sized operations, as numerous as mushrooms that can sprout overnight, and as scattered and perishable.

"That cooperative enterprise has the potential to impact on national concerns like reducing poverty and improving lives has long been proven in Europe and the Americas," Guillermo P. Cua, Natcco chief executive officer, said.

"But we need to overcome our tendency to fragment rather than act as one," he added. He explained that developments in the international co-op scene saw moves toward consolidation and specialization in the latter half of the 20th century.

Natcco-affiliated co-ops have a combined membership of some 1.2 million fixed-savers and borrowers all over the country, Cua said.

The roster showed that members come from all walks of life, representing the various sectors, including agriculture and fisheries, manufacturing and industry, trades and professions, small-scale enterprises, and others.

The aggregate asset value of the member co-ops totaled P26.1 billion in 2001, it was learned, while assets per co-op averaged P21.9 million.

Some co-ops, like the 10,000-strong Cebu CFI Community Cooperative, are about to breach the P400-million mark.

Answered needs

"The greatest need among members in the current crisis is for financial assistance in their business ventures as well as for their children's school requirements," said Ofelia Morales, Cebu CFI co-op manager.

Of the over P360 million in loans released by the Natcco affiliate last year, P164 million went to commercial and industrial loans, P102 million for educational loans, and P80 million to agricultural loans.

A study of the 1999 statements of over 1,000 credit co-op affiliates revealed that an estimated P13.5 billion in productive and providential loans was released to member-savers over a period of one year.

The same study also revealed that 162 co-op affiliates operated consumer stores with an aggregate stock inventory worth P153.1 million and a combined market of over 150,000 members.

Cua revealed that over the past five years, the network has implemented co-op performance standards, network-wide micro-banking computer software, as well as uniform accounting, audit, and credit policies and practices among its affiliates.

He added that in the next five years, a national central fund, liquidity pool and co-op deposit guarantee facility would have been fully established.

Farmers in Bugasong, Antique. PHOTO BY CIO DATAN, COURTESY OF THE COOP POST

In the meantime, the network has grouped credit co-ops, as well as consumers' co-ops, to increase efficiency through computerization and integration of similar products and services, management of surplus co-op funds, and bulk-buying of consumer goods.

"Our goal is to give co-op members unlimited access with lower costs, more and wider choices, faster and better services in any co-op anywhere in the Philippines," the Natcco executive said.

An electronic savers' facility is due to be launched during the network's silver jubilee convention to be held in Cebu City in May.

The service is designed to enable depositors to transact business with any participating co-op in the Natcco network. The move aims to spread the benefits of innovation among top-performing cooperatives that already allow members to deposit, withdraw or borrow funds in any of their branches, it was learned.

Money placement facility

One benefit that some co-ops, particularly employees' co-ops, are looking forward to is access to higher-yield money placements and investments for surplus funds.

"In these times of uncertainty, many members tend to keep their liabilities low," said Doris Cañares, manager of the 3,000-strong TMX credit cooperative, with assets of P114 million. "Yet, on the other hand, members have come to expect as much as 15 percent return on their savings."

Cañares is supporting a Natcco initiative to pool excess co-op funds in order to negotiate higher rates with investment banking institutions.

In a parallel initiative, the network is leading its affiliates in spinning off and consolidating other co-op services in the areas of agricultural trade, insurance and mutual benefit, housing and health, Cua added.

Natcco has nine development centers in Cagayan Valley, Northern Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, the Visayas, Mindanao and in the education, insurance and micro-retail sectors.

The co-op network's current initiatives are being undertaken with the assistance of cooperative development institutes in Canada and Europe, Cua said.

Her kind of pruning

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia

A SCHOOL principal in Valladolid, Negros Occidental, is in trouble because she ordered four 50-year-old acacia trees on the school grounds "pruned."

Residents, led by the parish priest, are calling for her ouster because they found that only stumps had been left of the trees. Now officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have gotten into the act and are reciting decrees and laws making punishable the pruning.

Leticia Pigar, principal of the Tabao Elementary School, does not seem to realize the gravity of her act, however. She still insists that all she did was to prevent old branches from falling and endangering the lives of students, and to enhance the beauty of the school's surroundings.

But she also has to answer the claims of protesters that she had sold the lumber from the cut trees to fund a "Gulayan Project" of the school.

* * *

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Pampanga recently that she will work for an increase in discounts in of senior citizens who buy medicines from 20 percent to 50 percent elicited cries of dismay from local drugstore owners.

The drugstore owners claim that they do not mind giving the 20-percent discounts if the government keeps its part of the bargain.

Officers of the local drugstores' association said that when they were ordered to implement the Senior Citizens' Act providing the discounts, they were given assurance that they would be granted tax credits equivalent to the discounts they gave.

But, according to an officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Bacolod, the agency still has not yet granted the promised credits. She quoted the BIR agents as saying that they are sorry but they have not been furnished any guidelines on how such credits can be granted.

The President's promise of additional discounts is something that they anticipate with dread, the drugstore operators said.

On the other hand, there are still senior citizens who complain (they cite one local drugstore as notorious for this) that salespersons of such establishments always declare they are out of stock when a senior citizen buys medicine.

It does look as if there are many things that have not been debugged out of the law yet.

* * *

IN the meantime, the President's order for local government units to initiate four-day workweeks for their staff has not worked out well in Negros Occidental.

The capitol tried to experiment with it on the first week of the month but gave up when neither workers nor supervisors were happy with the arrangement. They found themselves twiddling with their thumbs early in the morning when nobody came to transact business, and doing the same thing again late in the afternoon as they kill time that they could have used productively at home.

* * *

WHAT continues to be a hot story in Bacolod is the controversy at the Central Negros Electric Cooperative whose entire board of directors has been suspended by the National Electrification Administration because of complaints and charges of mismanagement.

After a hotly contested election of board members last month where most of the candidates were disqualified, the anger has not cooled. Heeding them, the NEA has extended the suspension of the Ceneco board and its general manager for 60 more days.

Nobody knows now what the status of the co-op is, with the newly elected board members not able to sit and the incumbent ones suspended.

* * *

AFTER disappearing from the scene for sometime, former Narcotics Command agent Remus Garganera, whistleblower for former Philippine National Police chief, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, surfaced again lately to criticize local police officers on their inability to land the big fish in the local drug trade.

Garganera specifically pointed to the Cuadra family, several of whose members are either in the so-called PNP Order of Battle or actually detained or charged, but whose kingpin has remained scot-free.

Stung by the insinuations that some of their men must be coddling the alleged drug lord, the Bacolod police headed by Director Amado Marquez, claimed that although they have unconfirmed reports of the man's financing or backing pushers, they have no evidence directly linking him to the crime.

Garganera must feel safe in talking like that to the local police. After all, he is in the custody of the Armed Forces.

* * *

IN Bacolod, the mayor and the city council are again at odds over the mayor's promise to war veterans that she will try to increase their pension from the city.

The council's presiding officer, Vice Mayor Ramiro Garcia, reminded Mayor Luzviminda Valdez of the many outstanding debts and obligations of the city that she has not begun to tackle. The city is in danger of having its electricity cut off, unpaid tuition of city scholars amounting to millions of pesos, travel expenses of athletes still unsettled, relocation obligations not met, and many others.

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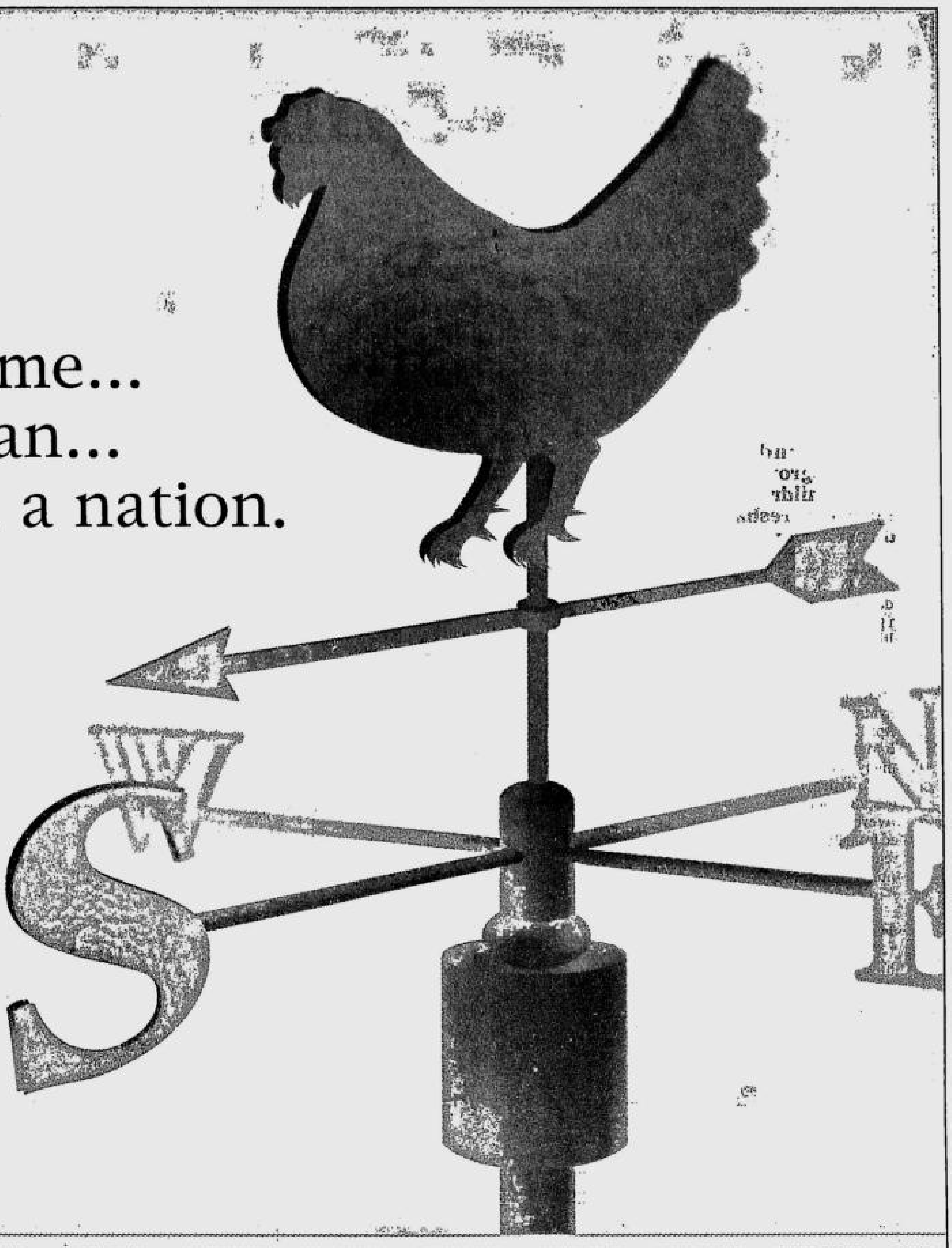

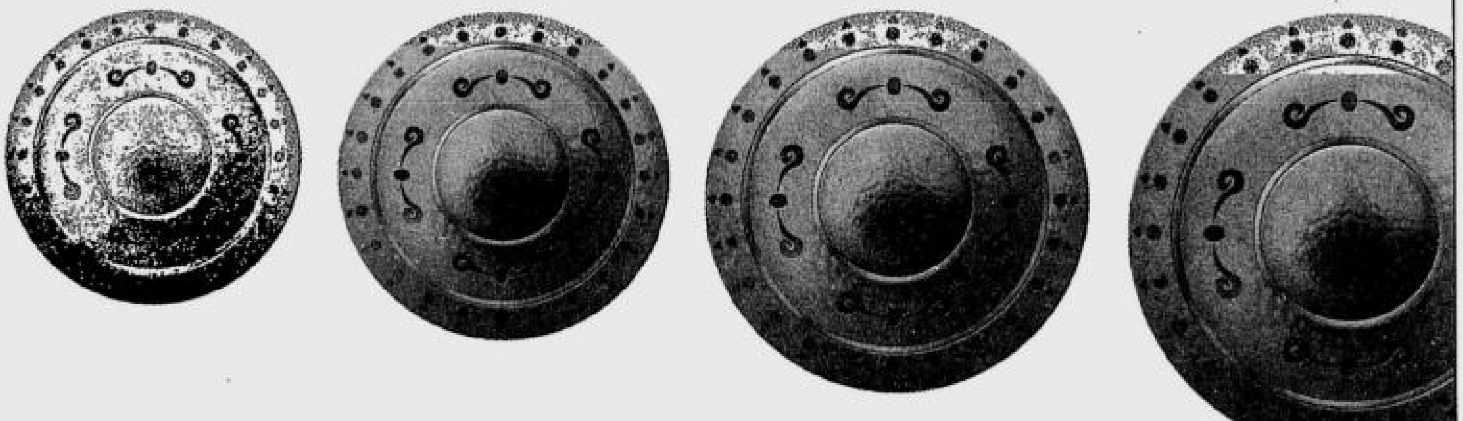

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Israel completes pullout from devastated Jenin

FOOTPRINTS and destruction remain behind after Israeli soldiers walk away from the West Bank's most devastated city of Jenin on Thursday. REUTERS

JENIN, West Bank—Israel completed its withdrawal from the town of Jenin Friday, allowing residents to search for relatives and belongings in a devastated refugee camp that a UN official described as "horrifying beyond belief."

The military said the withdrawal from Jenin was completed overnight, and Israeli forces took up positions just outside, preventing Palestinians from entering or leaving.

After the pullout, the military declared Jenin a closed military area and banned reporters from entering. Palestinians have demanded that Israel remove all its roadblocks.

In Washington, US President George W. Bush said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was keeping his promise to withdraw and was on schedule.

"He gave me a timetable and he met the timetable," Bush said.

Bush dismissed assessments that US Secretary of State Colin Powell's mission in the Middle East, which ended Wednesday without a ceasefire, had failed, and said the United States would continue to pursue a truce.

Col. Miri Eisen of the Israeli military spokesperson's office said Israeli commanders were surprised at the quantity of explosives and number of bomb-making laboratories that soldiers supposedly found in Jenin.

But on Thursday, UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed-Larsen accused the Israeli army of using morally repugnant means during its assault on the Jenin refugee camp.

Larsen, who toured the camp, told Israel Radio that it was "completely flattened" and resembled the scene of an earthquake.

"This is a sad and disgraceful chapter in the history of the state of Israel," the Norwegian diplomat said. "It's not only what you see, it's what you smell. You smell decaying corpses. The stench is all over the place."

But an Israeli military spokesperson, Lt. Col. Adir Haruvi, described the army as "peerlessly humane" and said the Jenin operation—the fiercest battle in the 21-day-old West Bank offensive—had succeeded in preventing a series of imminent suicide attacks on Israelis.

Jenin and other West Bank areas had been occupied in a sweep that Israel launched on March 29, saying it would uproot "terrorist infrastructures" after a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings.

More incursions

In Gaza early Friday, Israeli troops moved briefly into Palestinian-controlled territory near the border with Egypt, scene of frequent clashes and incursions.

Palestinian doctors said two people were killed by Israeli gunfire. Israeli military sources said that during a routine operation, Palestinians shot at soldiers, who returned the fire.

Also, the military said soldiers killed two armed Palestinians who tried to infiltrate into a Jewish settlement in Gaza.

Army Radio reported that Israeli tanks moved into the West Bank town of Qalqiliya early Friday, describing the operation as a pinpoint mission, not an occupation of the town. The military had no immediate comment.

In Washington, Bush defended the slow pace of Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian cities and said he understood why Sharon had laid siege to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah.

Bush summoned his foreign policy team to the Oval Office for a report from Powell, who had returned nine hours earlier from a Middle East mission without securing a ceasefire.

Aides said there was no decision on what to do next.

In staking out a newly conciliatory posture toward Israel, Bush is reflecting the desires of conservative Republicans and some Democrats who want the Jewish state to be given unfettered authority to crack down on terror.

Bush has had a difficult time since the crisis began in trying to evenly measure his rhetoric without seeming to favor one side over the other or signaling an unexpected shift in policy.

In this case, White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said the US President did not intend to signal to Israelis that he was backing off his demand for an immediate withdrawal.

Massive suffering

UN envoy Larsen said about 300 buildings were destroyed and 2,000 people were left homeless in the Israeli operation to capture or kill armed militants in Jenin.

"Not any objective can justify such action, with massive suffering" to civilians, said Larsen, walking in a blue flak jacket over the ruins of houses.

"Corpses were being dug up just below the surface and the stench is terrible," he said. "This is horrifying beyond belief. Just seeing this area, it looks like there's been an earthquake here."

Larsen said that international aid groups had been denied access to perform operations that could have saved lives and that Israel had not given food convoys proper access into the camp.

Reuters, AP

UN chief renews call for int'l force in Palestine

UNITED NATIONS—Despite Israeli opposition and US reluctance, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan appealed anew on Thursday for deployment of an international armed force in Palestinian areas as the only way to stop the bloodletting.

Annan urged the UN Security Council to pursue the option of a "robust" force, often advocated by Palestinians, rather than wait for an invitation from Israel. But diplomats said nothing would happen unless the United States took the lead, which it has not done or even considered.

However, diplomats said Annan was pushing the idea in order to get the United States to consider it seriously. Israel may give tacit consent if it finds that there is no other way out of the current impasse, the diplomats added.

Elaborating on a concept he voiced in Geneva last Friday, Annan said such a force would be in Israel's interest, and would put an international spotlight on any extremist Palestinian groups that try to undermine a ceasefire by continuing to engage in terrorism" such as suicide bombings.

The force being discussed by Annan will not be organized by the United Nations but by a group of countries.

Annan said the UN Security Council should authorize such an operation under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows the use of force.

"It could succeed only if Israelis saw it as part of a process leading to long-term security, and if Palestinians saw it as part of a process leading to the end of occupation and the withdrawal of Israeli settlements," he said.

But US Ambassador to the United Nations John Negroponte told reporters that Israel would have to agree because "any arrangement of this kind would have to be with the mutual consent of the parties."

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer emphasized that the United States would back civilian monitors, which Israel approves of as part of a ceasefire.

Asked about an armed force, Fleischer said US President George W. Bush "thinks the purpose of America's military is to fight and win wars."

Annan has long considered himself a buffer between Israelis and Palestinians, and until recently was more conciliatory to the Israeli position than his predecessors.

But since Israel launched a sweep of Palestinian cities and refugee camps on March 29 in search of suicide bombers, Annan has grown increasingly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has not replied to his letters.

Reuters

Talks fail; Nativity church siege continues

From page A1

tend.

A church source close to the negotiations told Reuters that the meeting was called off because of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's "insistence on including certain people in the talks."

The source expressed concern that Arafat was not doing enough to end the standoff.

Israeli troops surrounded the church 18 days ago, seeking dozens of Palestinian gunmen who took sanctuary in it after the army reoccupied Bethlehem.

Many of the church's clerics have expressed fear for their lives if the confrontation continues.

On Tuesday, Pope John Paul telephoned the Franciscan monks at the church to express his solidarity with them.

The Pope prayed in the church—which is built on the spot Christians revere as the birthplace of Jesus—when he made a historic visit to the Holy Land in 2000.

4th time

Israeli army spokesperson Olivier Rafowicz said it was the fourth time the Palestinians had canceled the meeting.

"The Palestinians are clearly trying to turn the issue of the Church of the Nativity into a political issue at the expense of the people in the church," Rafowicz said.

But Palestinian lawmaker Salah al-Tamari said Israel was responsible for the delay.

"The President (Arafat) is highly interested in settling this issue as soon as possible but it is the Israeli side to be blamed because they don't want to let a third party intervene," Tamari told Reuters.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said earlier this week that the US Central Intelligence Agency was the main mediator in efforts to end the impasse.

Israel says there are dozens of militants involved in deadly bombing and shooting attacks against Israelis holed up in the church, and has proposed that they surrender and choose between facing trial in Israel or safe passage into exile.

Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser said the Palestinian Authority's "main demand" was that "none of the Palestinians will leave the Palestinian territories" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This would have been the first meeting between the two sides. We wanted to explore ideas," Nasser said.

Contacts have taken place since the standoff began but they have been shrouded in secrecy.

3 bursts

Bethlehem residents said the shooting came in three bursts about 15 minutes apart, each lasting for a few minutes. They said smoke rose over the ancient basilica.

LAMENTATION: On seeing the damage done to her house in the Jenin refugee camp, a Palestinian woman breaks down. REUTERS

A spokesperson for the Israeli military said gunmen in the church opened fire and Israeli troops responded.

A Palestinian policeman contacted by telephone inside the church denied that the gunmen had fired, and said the shooting appeared to be part of Israel's psychological campaign to keep the gunmen off balance.

The policeman, known only as Salah, said the Israelis blew up a car near the church compound.

The firing and explosions have become routine in recent evenings, as Israel stepped up pressure on the gunmen to surrender.

Earlier, about 50 people from the United States and Europe marched toward the church holding bags of bread, sugar and canned food that they wanted to take inside.

Army soldiers stopped them about 400 meters away.

The marchers sat on the ground, lifted sacks of food onto their heads and sang protest songs.

"They have been held inside the church without food and medicine, and the international community has not yet intervened. So we, as civilians, are attempting to do this," said Huweida Arraf, a Palestinian-American who had moved from Detroit to Jerusalem. *Reuters, AP*

76% of Pinoys back US troops, says SWS

From page A1

deployment of the additional US soldiers Thursday night.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the entry of the new US contingent would be part of Balikatan 02-1's socio-economic component called "Gentle Wind" and would be covered by its terms of reference.

"There's no need for revisions (of the TOR) because this falls under the socio-economic component of Balikatan-1 which allows civic action projects," Golez said when asked if the government had amended the original terms of reference that governs the joint military exercise.

That TOR for Balikatan 02-1 limits the number of US troops to 660 and their length of stay to six months.

The President has yet to decide on the proposal to extend Balikatan 02-1 beyond July, according to Afable.

Strongly approve

Of those who approve of US soldiers going to combat zones, 44 percent said they "strongly approve" and 32 percent said they "somewhat approve."

Nine percent somewhat disapprove, 8 percent strongly disapprove and another 8 percent said they "do not know enough to give an opinion."

The SWS said support for US soldiers in combat zones was lowest in Mindanao with 68 percent in favor and 22 percent against. This was attributed to the "strongly divergent opinions of Muslims and Christians."

On the number of soldiers who can stay in combat zones, the survey showed that 600 soldiers were acceptable to the public.

Asked to react to the statement that the presence of US soldiers interfered with the way the government was running the country, 59 percent disagreed, 28 percent agreed and 13 percent were undecided.

The SWS said public confidence in the Philippine military's capacity to suppress the Abu Sayyaf without US help was at a "bare majority" of 54 percent.

Sixteen percent have very much confidence while 38 percent have somewhat much confidence in the military's capacity. Twenty-five percent have somewhat little confidence while 21 percent have very little confidence.

The SWS noted that public confidence in the Philippine military's capacity last month was much less than the 72 percent in July 2001 when there was no mention of foreign help.

In July, 34 percent said they had very much confidence in the military's capacity while 38 percent had somewhat much confidence. Twenty-one percent said they had somewhat little confidence while 6 percent had very little confidence.

Accomplices

Forty-seven percent either completely believe (21 percent) or somewhat believe (26 percent) that the Abu Sayyaf has accomplices in the military but 32 percent are undecided.

Public satisfaction with the US action was at 63 percent nationwide. In the ABC class it was higher at 79 percent. A total of 28 percent said they were very satisfied, 35 percent somewhat satisfied, 21 percent undecided, 10 percent somewhat dissatisfied and 6 percent very dissatisfied.

The SWS said the proportion of Filipinos worrying a great deal about possible major terrorist attacks on the Philippines dropped to 43 percent in March from 69 percent last November.

It said the decline occurred mainly in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon. But most Visayans (68 percent) and Mindanaoans (58 percent) were still very much worried about possible terrorist attacks.

The survey, conducted on March 4-23, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent and a 95-percent confidence level.

Briefing

A briefing of Guingona by US officials on Tuesday may have softened his opposition to the deployment of additional US troops in Basilan.

"He only needed to be clarified on certain matters and these were, in (some) cases, provided by the Department of National defense, and by US Adm. Dennis Blair and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone. The final briefing was conducted by other members of the Cabinet, including myself," Golez said.

Asked what issues were raised by Guingona, Golez said the Vice President had wanted to know what the projects were.

"He saw that there was no relationship with the military training component, that this was purely for civic (action)," Golez said.

"Today (is) Friday. That was quite fast . . . There were only two intervening days and the final touches were done last night," he said.

In Davao City, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the deployment of additional forces in Basilan to help build roads, bridges and water supply projects would have "a salutary effect on the whole Balikatan exercises."

"The people in Basilan (and Zamboanga) where Balikatan exercises are being held want some kind of infrastructure concerns to be attended to," he said in a statement.

Pimentel, who had earlier voted against the deployment of US troops in Mindanao, said he did not see any major obstacles to the planned extension of the Balikatan exercises as long as there was no breach of the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces Agreement. ***With reports from Anthony S. Allada and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Arafat sleepless in Ramallah

From page A1

ratory and nerve systems as well and brought adequate medicine for Arafat.

"There were no negative symptoms whatsoever. This is what really surprised me," he said.

"His memory functions well, he is coherent and has a very good analysis of everything going on," the doctor said, who added results of the tests should be ready within two days.

"In general, his condition is fine and there are no signs of stress. I was really surprised to find him in such good health because no normal person who lives in such conditions can be in good health," he said.

Real problem

But Kurdi stressed that the 72-year-old Palestinian leader "suffers from a lack of sleep, and this is natural for him to have little sleep with this siege" around his headquarters.

"This is a real problem," Kurdi said.

He also warned that Arafat's health could deteriorate "because there is not enough oxygen in the room" where he has been penned by Israeli troops who smashed into his compound March 29 and have since surrounded his office.

Kurdi last gave Arafat a full medical examination in Amman in November.

"The initial results I got today were similar to those I found when I last gave him a checkup four months ago," Kurdi said.

"Psychologically he is much calmer than four months ago and there are no signs of stress," said Kurdi who traveled to Ramallah with Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Moasher.

"He was so quiet and so cool and he was talking to Mr. Moasher at length, and he was really very quiet. There were no signs of agitation, no signs of irritability, no signs of stress," he said.

He described Arafat as a "man who has lived all sorts of difficulties and he has succeeded in the past in all of them," expecting the Palestinian leader to emerge unscathed from this latest challenge.

"Spiritually, physically, emotionally and from all other aspects he is in good health," he concluded.

Arafat underwent brain surgery in June 1992 in Amman when doctors removed a blood clot that had formed after the Palestinian leader survived a plane crash in the Libyan desert.

Kurdi said in June 1999 that Arafat, who occasionally shakes slightly in public, was not suffering as rumored from Parkinson's disease but from "trembling" caused by "nervous tension." *AFP*

Sandigan dismisses graft case vs Erap, Loi, Jinggoy

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN anti-graft court yesterday allowed state prosecutors to drop a graft charge against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, his Senator-wife Luisa Ejercito, son Jinggoy and four others in connection with the alleged P130-million tobacco excise tax scam.

The timing of the resolution seemed to make it a perfect gift for Estrada who celebrated his 65th birthday in detention yesterday.

The graft case which, along with seven other charges against Estrada et al, was filed by the Ombudsman's office on April 4, 2001, is the only charge that implicated Ejercito who is now freed of any criminal liability before the Sandiganbayan.

But the case, involving an alleged tax scam, remains one of the predicate crimes making up the "'main case" of plunder against the Estrada father and son, lawyer Edward Serapio, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Jaime Dichaves, Yolanda Ricaforte and three others.

In a resolution, the special Sandiganbayan division granted a Feb. 18 prosecution motion which appealed the Jan. 30 decision of the 1st Division disallowing the withdrawal of the case.

Prosecutors argued that the 1st Division did not have jurisdiction over the case on the day it rejected the withdrawal since the Supreme Court had already created the special division nine days earlier, on Jan. 21.

The creation of the special court automatically placed all Estrada cases under its watch, including pending petitions like their motion to withdraw, the government lawyers said.

Aside from taking the prosecutors' view on the issue, the special division gave the withdrawal motion "due weight, in the light of established jurisprudence that the power to withdraw information is a mere adjunct or consequence of the overall power of the Ombudsman to prosecute."

Prosecutors had moved for the withdrawal as early as June 8, 2001, asking that the graft case be consolidated with the plunder case.

Their justification was that this would enable the court to save time and resources and allow them to concentrate on the "main plunder case."

At the Estrada plunder trial yesterday, the defense claimed a measure of victory when it succeeded in getting prosecution witness and Equitable PCI Bank vice president Manuel Curato to say that Estrada's signing of bank documents with another name "(was) allowed in banking convention."

Curato, who is himself a lawyer, sounded evasive when asked whether Estrada's action was "illegal or irregular."

He maintained that when he witnessed Estrada sign as "Jose Velarde" on Feb. 4, 2000 in Malacañang, "the matter of legality did not occur to me at the time, but it is allowed in banking convention."

Under grilling by Estrada counsel de oficio Prospero Crescini, Curato said "two laws are invoked" whenever bank executives allow a client to sign using an alias or number-coded documents pertaining to "confidential" accounts.

He was referring to the General Banking Act and the Bank Secrecy Law.

Curato said he "did not object" to Estrada's use of another name "given the limited data available" to him regarding the account at the time, and the "singular, unique situation" of the account being confidential.

"Even if they can establish that it was the President who signed (the documents), still there was nothing illegal about it since it was allowed in banking convention," Crescini later told reporters.

Despite the protests of state prosecutors, Estrada lawyers also successfully convinced the court to allow them to complete their cross-examination of Curato next Monday.

This forced the justices to adjourn the hearing at 10:30 a.m., an hour-and-half earlier than usual.

Crescini asked for more time to go over the transcripts of last Wednesday's hearing when Curato first took the stand.

"I'll be betraying the interest of the client if we rush this proceedings for the prosecution's convenience," Crescini told the court, claiming that he was "willing to be sanctioned" if the court would insist that he continue questioning Curato yesterday.

Presiding Justice Minita Nazario warned him and the defense panel that "this (was) the last time" they could ask for such an extension using the same reason.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who conducted Curato's direct examination, said such tactics by the defense were to be expected, especially at this stage in the trial.

TIGLAO

Gloria . . .

From page A1

Dante Ang as "senior media consultant" and Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable as "acting press secretary."

At the Manila Overseas Press Club forum Thursday night, Ms Macapagal was asked about Tiglao's intriguing remark that he would not mind if she decided to find someone to replace him during his absence.

"Definitely, Bobi Tiglao will be my spokesman, and (he) will continue to be the overall head of the communications group," she said after a pause.

Confirmation

The President said she was hesitant to let Tiglao undergo confirmation hearings. As her spokesperson, Tiglao often crossed swords with opposition lawmakers, some of whom sit in the Commission on Appointments.

As it was, Ms Macapagal said, she was finding it difficult to campaign for Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, both of whom have been bypassed several times by the bicameral commission.

"On the one hand, there is a case for keeping an open mind about that because I don't want . . . I mean, I have to judge the ordeal that Bobi will have to go through—(the same one that) Sonny and Bebot are undergoing," she said, referring to the two Alvarezes.

"But on the other hand, I haven't really had anyone definite in mind (for the post of press secretary)," she added.

The President ruled out naming Afable—her chief speechwriter—as permanent press secretary because, she said, he was more effective as PMS chief.

She said she had designated Afable as acting press secretary on Tiglao's recommendation, never mind that she bypassed three press undersecretaries in the process.

Unlike in Afable's case, Ms Macapagal was not as clear about Ang's present or future position in Malacañang.

She merely said that as consultant, Ang would continue to be involved in communications projects.

THE WHOLE stretch of North Avenue near Edsa is barricaded by anti-riot policemen to stop Estrada's throng from moving closer to the gates of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

'They came because they remembered'

From page A1

from the gates of the VMMC in Quezon City by about the same number of riot police.

They were prevented from converging at the main entrance of the hospital facing North Ave., which was entirely barricaded by anti-riot policemen. Four fire trucks were on standby. The demonstrators were forced to divide themselves into three groups: one at the corner of North Ave., and the Quezon Memorial Circle; at Mindanao Ave. near SM City, and Agham Road.

Commenting on the police restrictions, Estrada said, "Supposedly, we have freedom of assembly, right? During my time, I followed the Constitution to the letter."

"I just hope the police will not hurt my supporters especially the poor," he added.

One of Estrada's media coordinators, Ferdie Ramos, claimed that police monitored the North and South Expressway entrances to stop jeepneys and buses loaded with Estrada supporters who were headed for the VMMC rally. He said the licenses of the drivers were confiscated for plying out of their legal routes.

Though dismayed by the tight security, the Estrada crowds maintained a party mood. They waved orange flags and streamers, the color of Estrada's political party, and sang the birthday song.

No permit

Hundreds of members of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) were stopped by at least 1,000 policemen stationed at the corner of Mindanao and North Avenues and Agham Road, reports indicated.

"They had no permit," said a police official.

Some, however, tried to get past the tight security but were driven back by a phalanx of truncheon-wielding policemen. PMAP spokesperson Arnold Obina lamented that Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor, director for Central Police District, failed to endorse their request for permit on grounds that their rally would only obstruct traffic.

"Because of what they did to us, they have virtually caused traffic here," he said.

Sen. Loi

At around 3 p.m. Estrada's wife, Sen. Loi Ejercito, stood on a make-shift stage at the corner of North Ave. and the Quezon Memorial Circle to appeal to the police to allow her husband's well-wishers to move closer to the hospital gate. Later in her speech, she assured the demonstrators she would relay to the ex-President that "you are all here and that you are this many."

Estrada himself told reporters in his detention suite about his "overwhelming gratitude" to his supporters who tried to see him on his birthday. There were no words to describe his gratitude, he said.

"Your words of support and encouragement inspire me and give me self-confidence to face and fight against all the trials that are coming my way," Estrada had said in a message to his supporters via dzEC on the eve of his birthday. He called for them to rally peacefully.

No violent clashes occurred from the time the pro-Estrada crowd took their positions at around 1 p.m. By 6 p.m., the ralliers at North Ave. lit torches and sang happy birthday, their final greeting to their idol before dispersing peacefully at about 6:30 p.m.

"It was generally peaceful," said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Declining support

Estrada's party had predicted 50,000 people would show up Friday, but support for the once-hugely popular leader appears to have steadily declined since he was forced to leave the presidential palace on Jan. 20, 2001, by mass protests over his alleged corruption.

Estrada has bitterly fought his prosecution, denying allegations that he took tens of millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks during his 31 months in office.

He has challenged the impartiality of the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court that is trying him, refused to enter pleas to charges during court appearances, sought permission to go to the United States for eye and knee surgeries and recently fired all of his lawyers, refusing to work with their court-appointed successors.

Estrada has been charged with plunder, a capital offense, along with two charges of perjury for allegedly misstating his assets, and illegally using an alias to hide alleged ownership of a P 3.3-billion secret bank account.

'Fortunate'

At the MOPC, the President Macapagal also said that she not want Estrada followers to think he is being persecuted by the rich, as he has been claiming. Which is why she did not object to Estrada's confinement at the VMMC instead of the facility at Sta Rosa, Laguna which was built especially for him.

"This is out of respect to the segment of society who see in (Estrada's) condition their own condition in life, that of being exploited or being the object of prejudice by the more fortunate elements of society," the President said.

She added that the deposed President can consider himself "fortunate" since he is in a hospital and not in jail. ***With reports from TJ Burgonio, Dona Pazzibugan and INQUIRER wires***

Need a miracle? Try faith healer, Erap told

From page A1

thousands of followers, including those in Europe, and he is usually out of the country eight months of the year.

Orbito's patients included Hollywood actress Shirley Maclaine and politicians and royalty members from Spain, Italy, Russia, Eastern Europe and India.

Even Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, waited for hours to have an audience with Orbito during the rare times that the faith healer was home.

About Estrada's other sickness—his plunder and graft case, Orbito has no solution. "I'm not a politician. But from my vibration, it's hard for him to survive because he's mired in complicated legal problems of the (country)," the faith healer said.

Orbito, who also heads the 500-member Philippine Healers Circle, has been known to gouge out bloodied organs and eyes from his patients. So treating bum knees will be one of his easiest "operations."

Orbito was the son of a farmer who worked as a *sacada* (migrant sugar worker) and a mother who was an indigenous healer.

His spiritual home is now the Pyramid of Asia here whose main attraction is a 10.5-meter wood and stone pyramid created by renowned German architect Dieter Loewer.

The pyramid's vibration is so strong that those who enter it are only allowed to stay there for a few minutes or else they will be "overcharged."

Orbito said his first healing session came in his teen years when he dreamt of an old woman, who had dreamt of Orbito healing her. The two met and the old woman was able to walk for the first time in 10 years.

He said if Estrada wanted an appointment, he could cure his arthritic knees.

Smoking? It's probably a girl, study says

From page A1

52 percent of all babies born worldwide being male. The balance tends to even out later in life because females are better at survival.

Some scientists consider the ratio of male to female births to be an indicator of a population's health, because male sperm and embryos are more fragile than their female counterparts. The comparative number of males has been declining in several industrialized countries over the past few decades and researchers suspect toxic substances may be partly to blame.

A study published this week in The Lancet medical journal is the first to propose that smoking may play a role.

"It's probably right. It fits with what is already known about certain exposures, certainly in the male," said Dr. Henrik Moller, who has conducted extensive research on sex ratios but was not connected with the latest study.

The sex ratio is the proportion of one sex to the other in a given population and is expressed as the number of males for every 100 females.

The sex ratio at birth in most countries is between 104 and 106 males to 100 females. It fluctuates within a narrow range from time to time in some areas but the general trend of the last 20 years has been downward.

"The decline is absolutely minuscule, but it's there. It's genuine," said William James, a researcher at University College in London who has also studied sex ratios.

Declining

The proportion of males "has declined in most developed countries. In the United States it has gone down in the white population but up in the black population," said James, who was not involved in the study. "It has gone down in Italian cities, but up in the Italian provinces. It's moving all over the place and I think nobody really knows why."

In the latest study, Japanese scientists recorded the sex of 11,815 newborns delivered in their clinic between December 2000 and July 2001.

Each of the mothers was questioned about her and her husband's daily cigarette consumption around the time of conception—from three months before her last menstrual period until the time the pregnancy was confirmed.

The overall sex ratio among babies in the study was 104 boys to 100 girls. That equates to about 52 percent male.

However, when the couples were grouped according to their smoking habits, the ratio changed.

When neither the mother nor the father smoked, there were 121 boys for every 100 girls, or 55 percent male infants.

When both partners were pack-a-day smokers the ratio was 82 boys to 100 girls, or 45 percent male.

When one partner smoked, the ratio favored girls, but wasn't quite as low as when both were smokers.

Speculative

Moller, a professor at Imperial College in London, said there was no way to tell whether the father's smoking or the mother's smoking has more of an influence on the sex of the baby, nor how smoking exerts its power.

"It's quite speculative how these things might work," he said. "You might think that it happens by selectively knocking out the sperm cells that give rise to a son. You could also think of other mechanisms, such as the probability of implantation of a male fertilized egg and a female fertilized egg would be different, or the probability of an early loss of a male embryo could be increased. It could be anything."

The researchers hypothesize that sperm cells carrying the Y chromosome—responsible for male children—are more sensitive to damage caused by smoking than sperm cells with an X chromosome. **AP**

Cebuana faces RCPI; Stars win

GAMES TODAY *(Cebu Coliseum)*
3 p.m.—Davao vs CDO
6 p.m.—Negros vs Cebu

By Roy Luarca

CHIEF rivals Cebuana Lhuillier and RCPI Negros clash at 6 p.m. today as the MBA First Conference returns to the Cebu Coliseum.

Tight competition is again expected as the Cebuna Lhuillier Gems and the RCPI Negros Slashers, the dominant teams of the Southern Conference, will be disputing the top spot in the eight-team field.

Unbeaten in their first three starts, the Gems are slightly favored over the 3-1 Slashers owing to their homecourt advantage and high morale after surviving the challenge of the Casino Cagayan de Oro Amigos, 106-101, at the CDCC Sports Complex in San Fabian, Pangasinan, on Sunday.

The Gems returned to Cebu yesterday and Coach Francis Rodriguez immediately held a light workout in preparation for their game against the Slashers, who beat them for the conference crown last year.

"We need to win this one and our game on Monday (Amigos)," said Rodriguez. "Now that the boys have gotten the respect of the other teams, I told them to keep it up."

The Slashers shouldn't be pushovers, however, as they have also shown their capability when they thwarted the reigning national titlists LBC Batangas Blades, 76-70, on Saturday at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

Rodriguez will again be banking on Bruce Dacia, Stephen Padilla, Buboy Rodriguez, Jercules Tangkay and Egay Echavez for the points and Marc Pingris, Melvin Taguines, Jessie Lumantas and Chris de Jesus for the rebounds.

The Amigos try to end their four-game misery when they tangle with the Professional Davao Eagles in the 3 p.m. opener.

Again crumbling in the homestretch, the Amigos bowed to the Pampanga Stars, 93-85, Thursday night at the Mindanao Polytechnic Gym.

Speaker's Cup slated at W'Wack

THE FIRST Speaker's Cup for Haven, a fund-raising event for the benefit of Metro Manila street children, will be played on May 9 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's west course.

"We are embarking on our second major project for this year, which is to establish a National Haven for Children," said Gina P. de Venecia, president and chairperson of the organizing Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI).

"Our primary goal in holding this tournament is to build, create and maintain a rehabilitation center to keep children off the streets of Metro Manila," she added.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is the honoree of the tournament, is expected to head a group of special guests who will hit the ceremonial drives.

"This early, we would like to thank those who have graciously agreed to sponsor this tournament," said Margie A. Duavit, overall chairperson of the event.

These early sponsors are Metro Bank, RCBC, Philippine Bank of Commerce, GMA Network, Toyota Motor Philippines, Shangri-La Mactan, Pure Gold;

Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Land Bank, Ericcson Telecommunications Inc., and Representatives Jack Duavit and Jackie Enrile.

Interested parties may call CFSI through Janet or Myrna at 931-54-17, 931-56-70 or cellphone 0917-440-2244.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 9 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA Action at 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Kobe Bryant - Destiny's Child at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports

2002 NBA Playoff Preview at midnight (r) on ESPN

NBA Playoffs, First Round tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: Masters Series (Monte-Carlo), Early Round Coverage Day #4 at 9:30 a.m. (r), Men's Quarterfinal Match #1 at 2 p.m., Match # 2 at 4 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Worldcom Classic, Second Round at 12 noon on Star Sports

2002 Masters Review at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Minnesota 4, Kansas City 1; Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4; Oakland 4, Anaheim 2; N.Y. Yankees 8, Baltimore 4; Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 5, Houston 4, 10 innings; N.Y. Mets 1, Montreal 0; Florida 8, Philadelphia 7; Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 5; Los Angeles 5, San Diego 2. **AP**

DAVIS Love III gets some help from his caddie and brother, Mark Love, as he lines up his putt on the eight green during the first round of the Worldcom Classic on Thursday. AP

Love sizzles with 62, takes WorldCom Classic lead

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina—A week after fading at muscled-up Augusta National, Davis Love III shot a 9-under-par 62 on Thursday to take the first-round lead in the WorldCom Classic.

Love, seeking his fifth victory in the event, chipped in twice and made six birdie putts of 15 feet (4.5 meters) or more at Harbour Town Golf Links, finishing a stroke off the tournament record set by David Frost in 1994.

And Love did it with a grace few showed last week in the Masters.

"It was like a chip-and-putt course after hitting 4-, 5-, 6-iron into every hole last week," Love said. "It does seem easier."

The way Love performed, any course would.

"I thought I played pretty well until I looked up and saw that Davis was 9 under," said Phil Mickelson, three shots back after a 65.

Billy Andrade opened with a 64, his best round in 13 trips to Hilton Head. Mickelson joined Frost, Lee Janzen and Billy Mayfair at 64, and Greg Norman and Angel Cabrera shot 65s.

Mayfair and Norman were the only afternoon starters to make the top eight.

It was Love's best score in 56 career rounds at Harbour Town, where he's always in contention.

He says it's because he gears his game for the Masters. Although it hasn't yet paid off with a green jacket, Love's success kicks in a week later. He's the WorldCom's career money winner at more than $1.1 million in 16 appearances.

Love held the early lead a week ago, too, with a 67 before sliding to eighth behind Masters champ Tiger Woods. But Love is much more confident at Harbour Town, with its narrow fairways and small greens.

"He definitely likes playing here," said Ernie Els, well back at 71.

Love had an inkling he was ready to break through at Harbour Town. He shot a 64 in the pro-am Wednesday and told his caddie, brother Mark, to take the clubs to the car instead of the practice range. **AP**

Annika wants 1-on-1 vs Tiger

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia—Annika Sorenstam, the most dominant player in women's golf, says she would welcome a one-on-one match with Tiger Woods, the most dominant player in the men's game.

"I don't know if Tiger wants to, but I love the challenge," Sorenstam said during an appearance at Eagle's Landing Country Club in advance of the May 3-5 Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, where she is defending champion.

"I'd love to play. I'm sure we could work out the distance issues somehow," she said, referring to the shorter tee distances for women golfers.

Sorenstam and Woods played against David Duval and Karrie Webb in an exhibition last year, which Sorenstam called a "lifetime experience." **AP**

Magramo defends title vs Lunas today

PHILIPPINE flyweight champion Melvin Magramo defends his crown tonight at the Paniqui Convention Center in Paniqui, Tarlac against the undefeated Rolly Lunas of Tabaco, Albay.

Magramo, a former Orient champion, must win convincingly to make it back to the world ratings. But Lunas, is no pushover. He has knocked out his opponents seven times in 10 fights.

Promoted by Johnny Elorde in coordination with BPF & JCN Sports Promotion of engineer Josue Nool and through the support of Governor Jose Apeng Yap Sr. and Paniqui Mayor Elpidio Ibarra, the slugfest will also feature the Elorde brothers, Bai and Mig who will see action against top amateur division in preparation for coming fights. They have received an invitation from the World Boxing Association to train in Cuba this summer.

In the supporting mainers, former WBA Pan Asia welterweight champion Fernando Sagrado will battle Luzproba No. 1 contender, Jun Elacion. Other ten round fights will feature RP No. 9 bantamweight Alex Escaner against Luzproba No. 2 Mawel Says while Benjie Sorolla will face Ben Albanes.

An exhibition fights between Rita Elorde, daughter of the great Flash Elorde, agaisnt Janice Gernale of L & Gym will be an added attraction. Fights start at 4 p.m.

Dogs show 2nd leg unfolds tomorrow

THE SECOND leg of the GSDF (German Shepherd Dog Federation of the Phil.) Landesgruppen and Sieger Show reels off tomorrow (April 21) at the Quezon City Hall grounds starting at 8 a.m.

Under the leadership of chair Jose Sibal and businessman Jewel Castellar, GSDF had invited SV-Indonesian Judge Datu Fonseka to inspect and render proper rating to the super dogs.

Point system cumulative of all four Landesgruppen and one National Sieger Show in October will determine the 2002 Dog and Bitch of the Year.

Leading the race after one leg are Sieger Calypso Schloss Ramsberg and Siegerin Kessa Piste Trophe.

"Lots of new arrivals are entered in the second leg. The Northern as well as Southern Luzon German Shepherd Dog Association are coming in full force," said Castellar.

Entries are also coming from Eastern and Western Visayas, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, and Zamboanga.

"It's a hot summer and this dogs are in for a grueling match," noted Sibal.

As of presstime, 180 entries have so far been registered. Entries will be accepted until 8 a.m. on April 21.

Sponsors are Eukanuba, Happy Dog, and My Pet. Interested parties may call 4124105 (PCCI)and 8317371 (GSDF).

RUGBY FESTIVAL

A total of 24 teams from 16 countries converged recently at the Nomads Sports Club for the two-day Sinclair James Manila Tens International Rugby Festival. Shown above are the champion British Club Bangkok (right) and runner-up Sydney Schooners during the awarding rites.

RP squad to wear new attire

TEAM Philippines will be sporting a new, fashionable look come the Busan Asian Games in September.

Thanks to noted fashion designer Rajo Laurel and Adidas, who came out with new, trendy ideas for the athletes' parade uniforms and track suits which, Task Force Asiad officials said, will be a big departure from the type of uniforms they used to wear.

The uniforms will be formally presented to the public via a fashion show featuring the national athletes themselves on April 24, which will also serve as the first technical orientation meeting with the Team Philippines.

"We have decided to go with the times," said Ariel Paredes of the Task Force Asiad which supervises the preparation for the country's stint in the Asiad. "And we realized that uniforms do a lot in psyching up the athletes."

Paredes said the Nationals will finally shed the usual red-white-blue in favor of a gray and blue competition and training suits designed by Adidas which will manufacture the uniform exclusively for Team Philippines.

Marc Anthony Reyes

GS reaches Balangiga

BALANGIGA, Samar—The four-man Nissan Exalta GS Superio crew reached this historic town Thursday as the 30-day Pan Philippine Marathon resumed on Thursday.

Over a hundred years ago, Balangiga was described by an American general as a "howling wilderness."

When the team of Andy Dysangco, Jun Ramirez, Jay Roque and Ike Borja arrived here following its Mindano drive, the Caltex Havoline odometer sported a kilometer reading of 13,743.

The rip here is considered one of the highlights of this month-long trek around the archipelago because of the historical significance of this coastal town that was ravaged by the Americans in 1902 after an insurrection staged by the locals that killed 45 US soldiers and wounded 22 other six months earlier on Sept. 28, 1901.

SLR hosting sports tilts

SPORTS activities will spice up the program when Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. opens newly completed hotel clubhouse facility at the Club Morocco Beach and Residential Estates in Subic, Zambales.

The grand opening will have sports activities such as beach volleyball, wall climbing, tennis, basketball, windsurfing, kayaking, billiards, and bowling.

The 240-hectare Club Morocco Beach and Residential Estates is a resort community set in Mediterranean ambience that offers direct access to water views and activities.

Royale Homes Marketing Corp. handles the marketing and sales of SLRDI in Subic. For inquiries, call 726-4288/723-40 14/ 726-4205.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Jovie Saulog scored 30 points to win the National Motocross Championships at the Highlands Motorcycle Park in Tagaytay City.

K·SWISS
THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH
PRESS CONFERENCE
APRIL 12, 2002
HON. MAYOR SONNY BELMONTE
HON. VICE MAYOR HERBERT BAUTISTA
HON. CONGRESSWOMAN NANETTE DAZA
STA 2002

QC SPORTSFEST

Lawyer Marcos Lauron of K-Swiss (standing) explains the details of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Quezon City) Sports Fiesta 2002 during the event's launching recently. The sportsfest among the youth of Quezon City's various barangays is backed by K-Swiss, Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and Rep. Nanette Daza. It will end on May 26.

Lakers still team to beat

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE SACRAMENTO Kings (61-21) registered the best record during the regular wars and the San Antonio Spurs (58-24), with a nine-game winning streak, are the NBA's hottest team going into the playoffs which start tomorrow (Manila time).

But make no mistake. The LA Lakers (58-24), seeking a rare title "three-peat," are still the team to beat in the postseason and the road to this year's NBA championship will have to pass through Glitter City.

With a wide-open but awfully weak Eastern Conference cast, expect the Larry O'Brien title trophy to go to a Western Conference unit for a fourth consecutive year.

The No. 1 seed Kings, who are a league-best 36-5 at home this season, have the homecourt advantage in every playoff round so long as they stay alive. Yet, in a potential second-round confrontation with the No. 4 Dallas Mavericks (57-25), Sacramento will be facing a team that owns the top road mark in the majors at 27-14. That should be an explosive seven-game matchup since both the Kings and Mavs like to run a lot and are the NBA's two highest-scoring teams. Dallas is No. 1 on offense with 105.2 ppg and Sacramento is next at 104.6.

The No. 2 seed Spurs and the No. 3 seed Lakers also are on an early collision course. A second-round confrontation looms with the Lakers enjoying homecourt advantage. That's in contrast to last year's Western finals (third round) when San Antonio had the homecourt edge but was swept in four games by the Lakers en route to their second straight crown. El-Ay captured the tiebreaker by virtue of its 3-1 victory over San Antonio in their head-to-head season series this season.

Note that the teams with the four best records in the NBA all reside in the West. No wonder why the winner of the best-of-seven West finals is destined to be the NBA champion this year.

Of the four West matchups in the playoffs' first round, a short best-of-five series, it's the Lakers who have the toughest foe in No. 6 Portland (49-33), which split four games with LA during the regulars as the home team won each time. Shaquille O'Neal has gotten his way against the Trailblazers' big men but his sidekick Kobe Bryant was held in check by self-proclaimed Kobe stopper Ruben Patterson (an ex-Laker mate of Bryant's) and Bonzi Wells (who also burned Bryant for 33 points in Portland's 128-120 double-overtime victory last Apr. 14) during their four-game regular duel. The Lakers must not look past Portland. Their series could go the five-game distance.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Unknown French ousts Seles

HARLESTON, South Carolina—Monica Seles was upset by qualifier Stephanie Foretz 6-4, 7-6 (6) Thursday in the Family Circle Cup, where play was disrupted by a fire on a nearby bridge. Jennifer Capriati, the defending champion and top seed, also advanced to the quarterfinals, beating Alexandra Fusal 6-3, 7-5. Capriati will faces Anastasia Myskina in the quarterfinals. *AP*

Roddick does a McEnroe

MONACO—Angry US teen Andy Roddick did a John McEnroe impersonation as he crashed out of the Masters Series event at the hands of Tommy Haas on Thursday. Roddick, 19, lost his temper after a line call went against him in the opening set and gifted fifth seed Haas a 6-3, 6-2 win as the German reached the quarterfinals. *AFP*

Abarrientos, Harp quit RP team

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
4 p.m.—FedEx vs Talk N Text
6 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

THE PREPARATION of the national team to the Asian Games hit a snag as Coca-Cola ace playmaker Johnny Abarrientos and Red Bull pivotman Davonn Harp yesterday decided to skip the Busan, South Korea meet this September.

Chosen as part of the Magic 12 who will don the country's colors, Abarrientos tagged a recurring knee injury as the culprit, while the 6-foot-8 Harp cited personal reasons for quitting the national team.

National coach Jong Uichico said Boyet Fernandez of Purefoods replaced Abarrientos, while Harp relinquished his slot to Red Bull teammate Mick Pennisi.

"I was saddened by their (Abarrientos and Harp) departure but there's still work to be done and we must prepare to win the gold in the Asiad with what we have," said Uichico.

Harp wrote Uichico a letter the other day, signifying his intention to leave the team after spending four months of rigid training as part of the 27-man training pool.

Others named to the team were Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Rudy Hatfield, Dennis Espino, Kenneth Duremdes, Olsen Racela, Chris Jackson, Jeffrey Cariaso, Danny and Andy Seigle, Danny Ildefonso, Dondon Hontiveros and Noy Castillo.

Harp, however, cannot join the Thunder until the All-Filipino Cup (third conference) since the 2001 Commissioner's Cup Finals MVP form part of the original core of 17 PBA players who were selected to serve the country until the end of the second conference.

Coca-Cola's Edward Juinio, Marlou Aquino of Sta. Lucia Realty, Ali Peek (Alaska), EJ Feihl (Ginebra), Don Camaso (Talk N Text) were also barred from joining their respective teams in the Commissioner's Cup beginning in June.

Abarrientos, rookies Renren Ritualo (Federal Express), Chris Calaguio (Shell), Rafi Reavis (Coke) and veteran guard Patrick Fran (Talk N Text) were released from the national training pool and will see action for their squads.

ABARRIENTOS

HARP

Intervillage elims start April 22

THE NOKIA Intervillage golf tournament kicks off its three-month elimination series with the staging of the Nokia Intervillage North tournament at Manila golf and country club on Monday (April 22).

More than a hundred players from 10 villages in Quezon City are competing in the event sponsored by Nokia, the world leader in mobile communications.

Defending champion Philamhomes leads the field in the first round of the 36-hole qualifying round of the event organized by Videocom in 1991 to foster friendship among village golfers in the metropolis. The 2002 edition of the event, now on its 11th year, is also sponsored by PLDT, Volvo, Alaxan, ICTSI, Mastercard, Mizuno and 357 boracay.

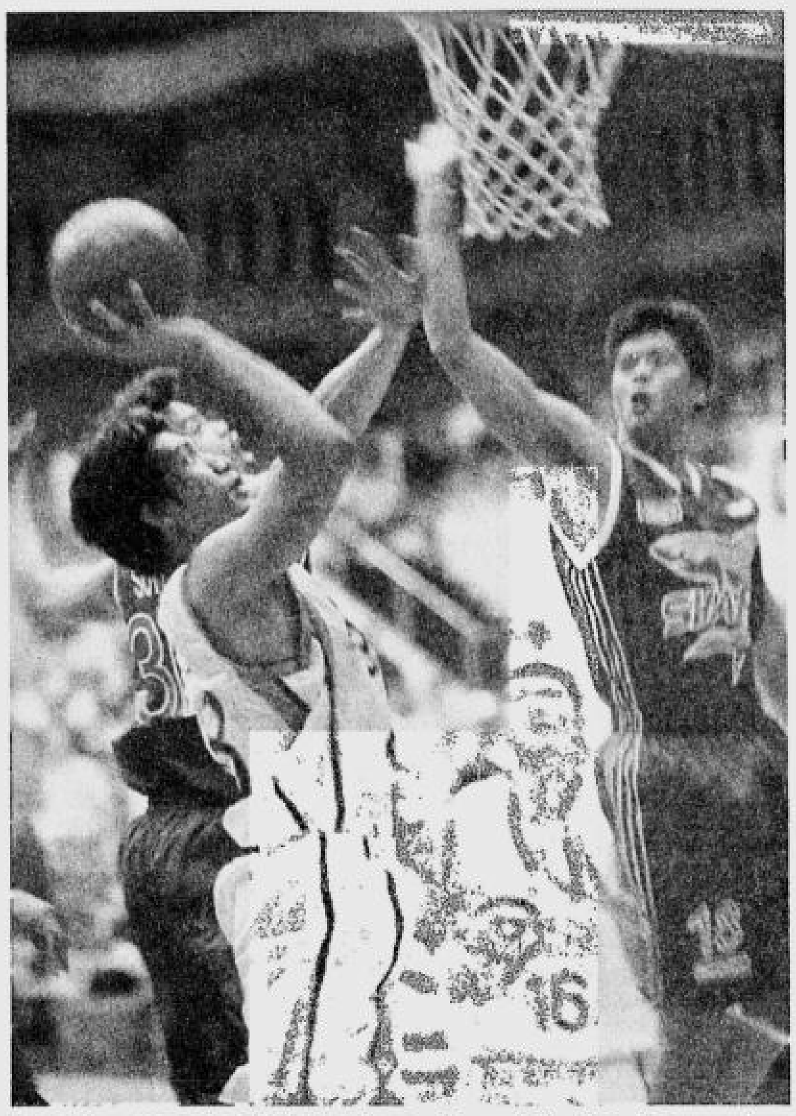
The villages and respective team captains seeing action in the series are Acropolis (Jake Tan), Corinthian Gardens (Jun Enriquez), Filinvest (Kenn Ramos), LA Vista (Junjun Capistrano), Philamhomes (bayani Fontanilla), White Plains (Renato Sawit), Xavierville (Albert Arcenas), Don Enrique Heights (Pons Nepomuceno), and Greenmeadows (Dennis Huong).

Tournament format calls for each village to field a maximum of 12 players with the best eight scores counting for the team. Tee off time is at 8 a.m.

After 36 holes of play, a champion team and two runners-up teams will be declared. The thee teams will receive trophies and will also qualify to play in the Nokia Grand Intervillage slated in November 2002.

Also on tap is the individual competition, contested in groups based on the gross scores of players. Group 1 will be for those with Hcp 0-5, Group 2 for Hcp 6 to 10, Group 3 for Hcp 11 to 15, Group 4 for Hcp 16 to 20 and Group 5 for Hcp 21 to 25. Maximum handicap is 25 for men and 30 for women.

The second leg of the series, the Nokia Intervillage South will be played on May 6, also at Manila Golf, with villages in Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Las Piñas competing.



JAMES Yap of ICTSI-La Salle (left) defies the defense of Shark's Ervin Sotto and Gerald Ortega to score from under in their PBL Chairman's Cup game at the Makati Coliseum. The Archers won, 63-56. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

La Salle, Foundation shine

LA SALLE-Dasmariñas and Dumaguete's Foundation University will send two teams each in the much-awaited 6th Nestea Beach Volley championships slated next month at enchanting Boracay.

Power-playing Kent Bulabon and Isidro Bongcasan gave Foundation University its second straight men's national title, while the duo of Cherie Mae Bolabola and Rolyn Marquicias is also favored to make it a sweep after topping the just-concluced VisMin qualifying at the La Salle-Greenhills courts.

Cebu's University of San Jose-Recoletos, bannered by Jerome Capada and Norvie Labuga, emerged as the second men's qualifier, while Janeth Ponte and Florina Gutierez made it from the distaff side.

Edgar Paule and Reygan Espera lifted La Salle-Dasmariñas to its first-ever Boracay trip in the company of Joubert Cocjin and Roldan Garcia of Pampanga Agricultural College in the Luzon qualifying.

Sisters Raissa and Rhonna Ramirez completed La Salle's excellent show by ruling the women's side. Baguio Colleges Foundation bannered by Christine Enola and Jhoanna Joanino also earned finals tickets.

The Luzon and VisMin winners will joined eight teams from Metro Manila in the country's biggest beach volleyball event which offered P100,00 each to the men's and women's champions.

The prestigious event is supported by Speedo, Mikasa, Asian Spirit, WG&A Superferry, Astring O-Sol Ice, Kenny Rogers Roasters, Carl's Jr, Boracay Gold Crowne Club, Villa de Oro, Club 10, Crystal Sand, Alyssa Resort, Club Bazurra, Summer Place, Caribo, Gorio's and Hey Jude.

Metro Manila qualifiers were: (men's) Central Colleges of the Philippines, PATTS, Far Eastern University, Mapua; Letran, St. Jude, Adamson and Mapua (women's).

La Salle extends Shark woes; John O triumphs

By Dennis U. Eroa

WORKHORSE Willy Wilson struck hardest in crunchtime as ICTSI-La Salle escaped with a scary 63-56 triumph over skidding Shark Energy Drink yesterday in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The 6-foot-3 Wilson foiled Shark's bid to end a three-game losing streak as he clustered nine points, including a three-point play off 6-foot-5 Rysal Castro which pegged the final score, 57 seconds remaining.

"Willy's an all-around player. I think he's an underrated player," said coach Franz Pumaren.

ICTSI-La Salle improved its record to 4-1, its lone defeat inflicted by Montaña Jewels, 76-72, last April 12.

Shark, which fell to 0-4, appeared set to tear a chunk of ICTSI's league-leading record. With Ismael Junio, Ervin Sotto and new recruit Mike Bravo hitting their shots, the Energy Drink Kings surged ahead, 56-54, five minutes remaining.

Playing with four fouls, Mike Cortez tied the game with a twisting layup, and Shark's downfall started when Junio and Sotto started taking poor shots which gave ICTSI the needed breather.

Warren Ybañez and St. Francis of Asissi star Al Vergara alternated in handcuffing Cortez in the first twenty minutes of play. With Cortez agonizing with his shots, Pumaren fielded in Ronald Cuan who gave quality minutes.

Veteran Dominic Uy exploded with 13 points, 11 in the first period as the Green Archers took a slim 35-34 lead. Both teams battled furiously, but it was clear that that the Energy Drink Kings lacked the needed staying power against the smooth-playing Archers.

In the second game, John O Juzz overpowered Montaña, 99-71, and joined ICTSI-La Salle on top with a 4-1 slate.

With a report from Emil Cabrera

Scores:

ICTSI-LA SALLE 63—Wilson 15, Uy 13, Yap 11, Ramos 8, Cortez 6, Cuan 4, Magsumbol 2, Zamora 2, Sta. Maria 2, Omolon 0.

SHARK ENERGY 56—Sotto 12, Junio 10, Cole 6, Castro 6, Basilides 6, Vergara 6, Ybanez 5, Bravo 5, Ortega 0, Rodriguez 0.

Quarters: 17-13, 35-34, 48-44, 63-56.

NBA first round playoffs schedule

(Manila time)

April 21, Sunday
Indiana at New Jersey, Game 1, 12:30 a.m.
Utah at Sacramento, Game 1, 3 a.m.
Seattle at San Antonio, Game 1, 5:30 a.m.
Orlando at Charlotte, Game 1, 8:30 a.m.

April 22, Monday
Philadelphia at Boston, Game 1, 12:30 a.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, Game 1, 3 a.m.
Portland at LA Lakes, Game 1, 5:30 a.m.
Toronto at Detroit, Game 1, 8:30 a.m.

April 23, Tuesday
Indiana at New Jersey, Game 2, 7 a.m.
Seattle at San Antonio, Game 2, 9:30 a.m.

April 24, Wednesday
Orlando at Charlotte Game 2, 8 a.m.
Utah at Sacramento, Game 2, 10:30 a.m.

April 25, Thursday
Toronto at Detroit Game 2, 7 a.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, Game 2, 9:30 a.m.

April 26, Friday
Philadelphia at Boston, Game 2, 8 a.m.
Portland at LA Lakers, Game 2, 10:30 a.m.

April 27, Saturday
New Jersey at Indiana, Game 3, 8:30 a.m.

April 28, Sunday
Charlotte at Orlando, Game 3, 12:30 a.m.
Sacramento at Utah, game 3, 3 a.m.
San Antonio at Seattle, Game 3, 5:30 a.m.
Detroit at Toronto, Game 3, 8:30 a.m.

April 29, Monday
Boston at Philadelphia, Game 3, 12:30 a.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, Game 3, 3 a.m.
LA Lakers at Portland, Game 3, 5:30 a.m.

April 30, Tuesday
Detroit at Toronto, Game 4, tbd*
Sacramento at Utah, Game 4, tbd*

May 1, Wednesday
New Jersey at Indiana, Game 4, tbd*
Charlotte at Orlando, Game 4, tbd*
Dallas at Minnesota, Game 4, tbd*

May 2, Thursday
Boston at Philadelphia, Game 4, tbd*
San Antonio at Seattle, Game 4, tbd*
LA Lakers at Portland, Game 4, tbd*

May 3, Friday
Indiana at New Jersey, Game 5, tbd*
Toronto at Detroit, Game 5, tbd*
Minnesota at Dallas, Game 5, tbd*
Utah at Sacramento, Game 5, tbd*

May 4, Saturday
Philadelphia at Boston, Game 5, tbd*
Orlando at Charlotte, Game 5, tbd*
Seattle at San Antonio, Game 5, tbd*
Portland at LA Lakers, Game 5, tbd*

**to be determined*

Potenciano scores in Subic

GULF Oil-zed-MP Turbo Team's Mike Potenciano finished second and third in the opening rounds of the Asian Formula 2000 series held last Sunday at the new Subic International Raceway.

The Formula Asia Rookie Champion of 1996 made the best of his natural talent and adapted quickly to the slippery track.

With seasoned drives breathing down his neck, Potenciano deftly controlled his AF2000 car to score the the first-ever Filipino podium finishes in second and third places.

"Potenciano's major sponsors in the AF2000 are Gulf Oil, the lubricants specialist, and Zed, the world's largest mobile services provider. Additional support came from Abante Newspaper, Francisco Motors Corp., yehey.com, AER Engines, Rota Wheels, CPM Mufflers and Accessories, Racegear, BLTBCo. No Fear, Gatorade, Gandour Candies, Rainforest Mineral Water, Bavarian Machine Works, Motolite Batteries and Fastrack.

Roligon 4-cock derby gets going

COCKING aficionados will be treated once again to exciting fights with the holding today of the Bobski's 4-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Cocker-breeders from Metro Manila and nearby provinces will join this derby hosted by Bobby Velayo and Friends. Total pot is P300,000.

Among them are Lito Alcantara, Emmitt San Juan, William Go, ASF, Dong Lacson, Col. Senoza, Gary de Leon, Iking Araneta, Jimmyton Araneta, Danny Ty, Alex Cabangon and many others.

The entry fee for this bloody encounters of feathered gladiators is P10,000 while the minimum bet is P5,500. The handler and the gaffer will receive P20,000 and P10,000, respectively.

Weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg must be submitted today from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The P300 tickets will be on a "buy-one, take-one" basis until 6 p.m. after which it will be a "sit-anywhere" arrangement.

For particulars, call 833-16-38 or 833-22-75.

Galleros tourney set April 22, 24

BIG and small-time cocker-breeders from Metro Manila and nearby provinces are all set to face each other as Casino Filipino-Parañaque hosts Galleros de Manila's PI-M 5-Cock Derby on April 22 and 24. Respected names in the pit fighting world such as former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillosa, Allan Vicencio, Rey Ong, Vic Yu and many others assured the promoters of their participation in the event with an entry fee of P 11,000.

They will be pitted against Galleros de Manila stalwarts Iking Araneta, Jimmyton Araneta, William Go, Lito Alcantara, Emmitt San Juan, Gene Avendano, ASF, and others in this derby with a minimum bet of P11,000.

For inquiries, call Rizelle at 893-20-93 or Lakay at 0917-2425916.

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ACTION	KEYWORD
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To invite a friend	INVITE <celfone number>
To check your total raffle points	POINTS TXTGAMES
To allow other players to challenge you	ON
To send a message to your opponent while playing	SAY <message>
To know the rank of a player	RANK <nickname>

To play, key in PLAY <game code> and send to 238:

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DECODE*	DC
GOTHELLO	GTLO
HANGMAN	HM
TIC-TAC-TOE	T3
BATTLESHIP	BS
WORDSEEK	WS

** One-player game only.*

For more instructions/commands key in **HELP <game code>** and send to 238.

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Second Weekly Draw	APRIL 30, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Third Weekly Draw	MAY 7, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Fourth Weekly Draw	MAY 14, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Fifth Weekly Draw	MAY 21, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Sixth Weekly Draw	MAY 28, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Seventh Weekly Draw	JUNE 4, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Eighth Weekly Draw	JUNE 11, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
Ninth Weekly Draw	JUNE 18, 2002	Zappy Electronic Scooter
First Monthly Draw	MAY 14, 2002	₱25,000
Second Monthly Draw	JUNE 18, 2002	₱25,000
GRAND DRAW	JUNE 18, 2002	₱200, 000

Note: Cut-off time is 12 midnight of every Sunday prior to the draw date.

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My protector raped me, says crime witness /A22

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Editor Louie C. Camino

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WPD chief: I don't care if people hate me

'What was I supposed to do, smile?'

By Philip C. Tubeza

PASINOS

"I DON'T give a damn if I'm not popular," the Western Police District head, Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., said yesterday after he was criticized for publicly berating his men and hitting one of them with a truncheon following a violent dispersal of protesters on Monday.

Pasinos said what he cares about is that "my men do their jobs properly."

He dared his critics in the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. to "rise above personal interests" and be more "constructive" about their criticisms of his leadership.

"I don't care if people hate me," Pasinos said. "I just want my men to do their jobs properly."

To him, scolding the anti-riot policemen on Monday was for their own good. He said he got angry because the 20 protesters from the Youth for Nationalism and Democracy were dispersed in front of the US Embassy without his go-signal.

WPD CHIEF/ A24

SANCHEZ

Korina cleared in maid's wage case /A22

Cops ease fears of whitewash

By Christian V. Esguerra

LAS PIÑAS investigators yesterday said there is no reason to fear a cover-up in the investigation of the fatal shooting of a nurse last Friday since they have already elevated the case to the city prosecutor's office.

Supt. Efren Sindico, chief of the Las Piñas Criminal Investigation Division, said this yesterday even as the family of victim Bella Abella said they fear a whitewash in the investigation considering that the suspect is the wife of the scion of the wealthy Madrigal clan.

COPS EASE/ A22

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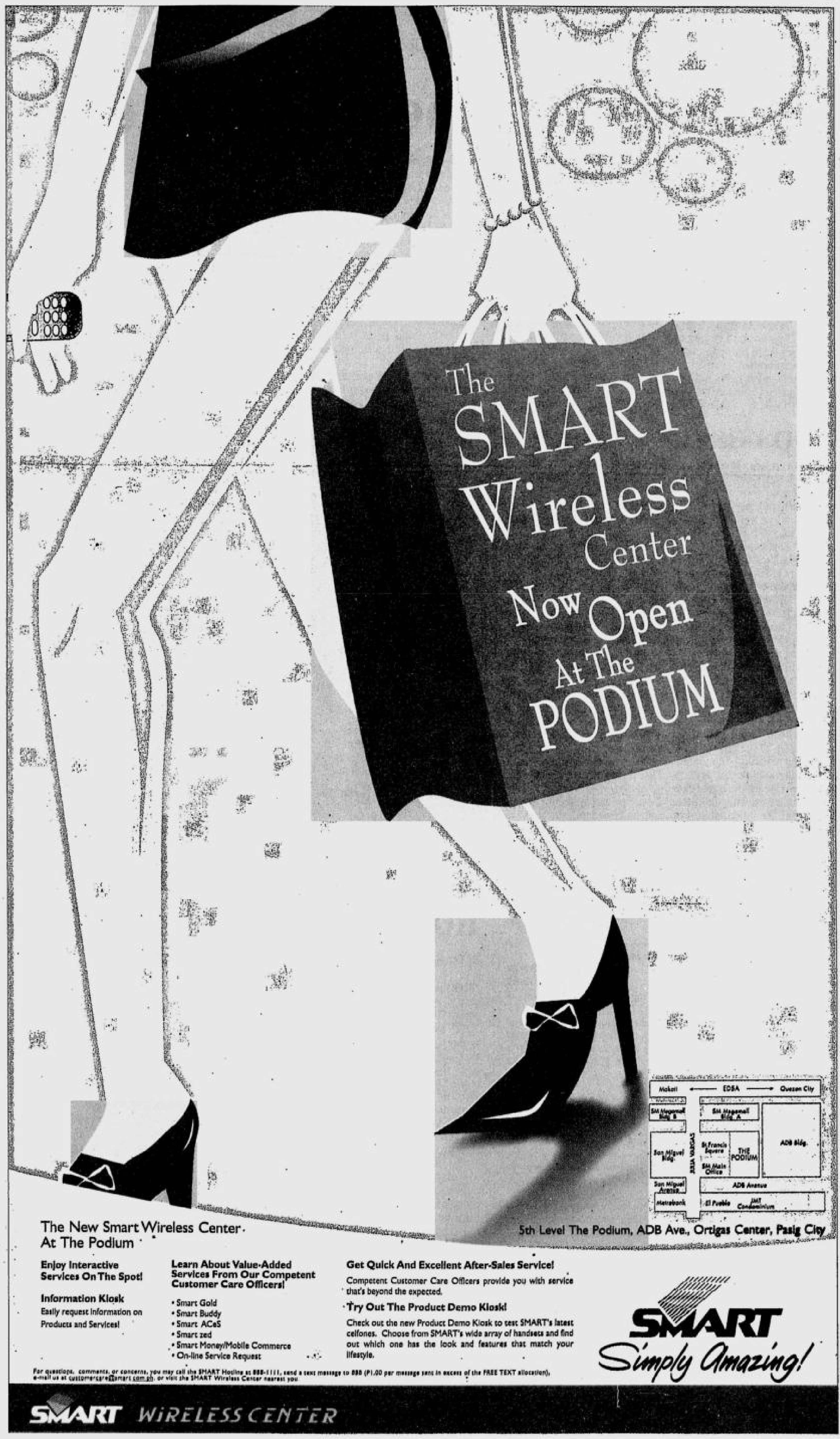
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RP and Venezuela: No comparison

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon may be right in saying that the imminent appointment of Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu as Armed Forces chief of staff might bring demoralization in the ranks.

But he was grossly exaggerating when he compared Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez, who was ousted in a military coup but who was reinstalled two days later, to disgraced former President Erap.

Biazon said Erap might be reinstated by the same military that drove him out of power if President Macapagal-Arroyo did not rethink her position of appointing Cimatu as the next AFP chief of staff.

***

I agree with Biazon that there are some "rumblings" within the military over Cimatu's possible appointment. I heard about it myself from my sources among retired and active service officers.

But I disagree with the senator, a former AFP chief of staff, that the demoralization might lead to a coup that would reinstall Erap.

Venezuela's Chavez was reinstated by loyalist troops and by street protests from lawmakers and his country's supreme court over his unconstitutional replacement.

***

Erap was driven out of office by a big street protest rally backed by the military. His ouster was ruled as legal and constitutional by the Supreme Court.

In the case of Chavez, the Venezuelan supreme court and lawmakers were at the forefront of his return to power two days later.

Our lawmakers and the Supreme Court will never take part in reinstalling Erap to the presidency because they took part in ousting him.

***

Let's face it: The Edsa 3 "people power" did not succeed because it was not led by people from the middle class. It was a poor people's rebellion.

Successful rebellions in the world, including Edsa 1 and Edsa 2, were led or inspired by people from the middle class. Even the Russian revolution that made the country communist was inspired by Karl Marx, a member of the middle class.

The country's middle class that led and inspired Edsa I and Edsa 2 did not support the coups against then President Cory Aquino. That was the reason those coups did not succeed.

***

From past experience, the military will not move unless it has the backing of the country's middle class. After all, the intellectuals and leaders of the nation come from the middle class.

So, Mr. Biazon, before you opened your mouth about the possibility of Erap being returned to power by the same military that ousted him, you should have gone back to your history.

President Macapagal-Arroyo cannot be ousted and replaced by a fallen leader because she enjoys the support of the country's middle class.

***

But going back to the problem of Cimatu's imminent appointment as AFP chief of staff when he'll be retiring in a few months, the President can resolve that.

Cimatu can serve out his term as AFP chief of staff and then quit on his 56th birthday, the retirement age of military officers. He can then be replaced by another general whose retirement will be a long way off.

Biazon was appointed AFP chief of staff three or four months before his retirement. His term was not extended.

Another general, Cesar Abella, became commandant of the Philippine Marines three months before he reached retirement age. Like Biazon, Abella's stint was not extended.

***

Some snatchers and pickpockets thrive because they enjoy police protection.

In Quiapo, Manila, a certain SPO1 Santos of the Barbosa police precinct is reportedly coddling thieves in his area of jurisdiction.

Santos is a desk officer of Barbosa precinct. His shenanigan was exposed when one day, a suspect in the snatching of a gold necklace was taken to the precinct.

***

The brother of the snatching victim went to the precinct and confronted the suspect. He was emotional and hit the suspect. He thought his sister, the victim, had been stabbed by the snatcher while she was running after the suspect. It turned out she was safe.

SPO1 Santos jailed both the snatching suspect and the victim's brother. He also punched the victim's brother before clapping him in jail with the suspect. The cop advised the suspect to file a case against the victim's brother.

No amount of pleadings from the victim made Santos release her brother.

SPO1 Santos, how much are you getting from the snatchers and pickpockets in Quiapo?

***

I got a letter from Mandarin Oriental, particularly from Charisse G. Chuidian, the hotel's PR officer, concerning an item about the hotel in this space on Tuesday.

Chuidian says nurse Rachel Grace Rogel, the complainant, was never an employee of the hotel. She was working for the hotel's medical director who operates the hotel clinic.

"Her separation from the clinic was an issue between her and her superior for violation of a standard practice," the PR manager says.

***

Chuidian continues: "In any case, the hotel management did not ignore Ms Rogel's complaint about the security officer who carried out the order from her former superior that she was not to be allowed within the premises of the clinic."

The security officer involved, says Chuidian, is now suspended and is facing a complaint before the PNP Security Agencies and Guards Supervision Division. (Let me inform Ms Chuidian that it was "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo" that initiated the complaint with the PNP against the security officer).

"We apologize if Ms Rogel felt that her complaint was not attended to," the hotel PR manager said. "Meanwhile, we also assure her that she is welcome as a guest of the hotel at anytime."

My protector raped me, says crime witness

By Jerome Aning

A WOMAN under the care of the government's Witness Protection Program yesterday accused a security officer assigned to protect her of raping her last month in a Quezon City safehouse.

In a two-page affidavit filed with the Commission on Human Rights on April 9, the 29-year-old housewife accused WPP security officer Gerry Lintan, a.k.a. Rustom Yap, of raping her on March 26 inside an apartment, where she, another witness, and their families were being housed.

The woman yesterday went to the Manila-based Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, which is monitoring the case where she is a witness, to reveal her ordeal.

"I can't do anything; I can't go to the police to complain without exposing my identity and endangering myself and my family," the teary-eyed victim told the INQUIRER.

The woman, her husband and their 4-year-old daughter have moved to a small apartment as they await the progress of her complaint.

She said she left the protection program on April 2 because WPP director Leo Dacera III failed to resolve on time her complaint against Lintan.

"I don't know who to believe between the two of you," she quoted Dacera as saying.

The housewife said Dacera even tried to make her reconsider her complaint, and even pointed out to her what will happen to the case where she is testifying.

Lintan, who was reassigned after the incident, claimed he and the victim are having an affair. But she said she treated Lintan's courtship as a joke, and even told her housemates and other guards about it.

The complainant said that on March 26, she went downstairs to wash her daughter's feeding bottle when Lintan embraced and punched her before dragging her into his room.

She said the security officer pushed her to a bed, placed a pillow on her face and stripped her.

She claimed the suspect planned the sexual assault because the VCD player's volume was turned up, the lights were off and the doors of the apartment were locked from the inside.

The suspect also attempted to rape her two days later while she was leaving the bathroom. But she fought back and was able to grab a kitchen knife, which she used to drive the suspect away.

The housewife is a witness in the brutal murder of a relative over a land dispute in Pangasinan in 2000.

She sought government protection when, as the case was being heard, two armed men abducted and threatened her. She was later dumped in Tarlac.

She said she and her family face an uncertain future, not only because of the murder and rape cases, but because the WPP gave them a measly P5,000 as relocation pay.

The woman said she could not even go out of their house while her husband, a security guard, is away most of the day.

"I'm determined to push through with this case," she said. "And I definitely do not want other witnesses who go to the WPP to suffer my fate."

The VACC referred her complaint to the CHR. Dante Jimenez, head of the anti-crime group, wrote Justice Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday to look into the case.

"This is a case where a safehouse becomes a house of danger, where a witness is harmed instead of protected," Jimenez said.

The VACC chief said witnesses under the WPP are often at the mercy of their security escorts, who can threaten to abandon them anytime.

Cops ease . . .

From page A21

"We're afraid nothing would happen to the case," said Jansen, the victim's 21-year-old son. "Mabigat ang kalaban."

Jansen said he and his relatives were alarmed after the camp of suspect Marybeth Lopez de Leon, 57, went straight to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame instead of to the Las Piñas police which is investigating the shooting.

De Leon's lawyers also surrendered to the CIDG headquarters the bloodstained BMW car in which she allegedly shot Abella.

The suspect is the wife of businessman Jose Vicente Madrigal de Leon.

"Let's be realistic," Superintendent Sindico told the INQUIRER. "A whitewash is possible. But in case it happens, it would not definitely come from the police since we have already filed the case."

Sindico said no one from De Leon's side had contacted his office to ask for any favor.

Police filed a murder charge against De Leon last Monday, three days after the shooting of Abella in front of BF International Village in Las Piñas.

Also on Monday, Sindico said he and his men asked the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to issue a hold-departure order on De Leon.

De Leon's lawyers later issued a statement denying that she was in hiding.

Sindico also asked the Philippine National Police Firearm and Explosives Unit in Camp Crame to check if the suspect had a gun license.

"We did everything," he said. "We were quick in filing the case."

Abella, who worked as the De Leons' private nurse for 18 years, will be buried today at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

HOW TO HANDLE BOMBS

Members of the Western Police District bomb squad clean up after exploding a bomb during a drill in Sampaloc, Manila.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 20, 2002
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 9:31-42**
Gospel: **Jn 6:60-69**

Many of Jesus' followers said, "This language is very hard! Who can accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were murmuring about this and so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then how will you react when you see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh cannot help. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But among you there are some who do not believe."

From the beginning, Jesus knew who would betray him. So he added, "As I have told you, no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

After this many disciples withdrew and no longer followed him. Jesus asked the Twelve, "Will you also go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We now believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Commentary

Some disciples seemed to want a Christianity without the Eucharist. But Jesus and John could not dilute the truth: on the night before he died, Jesus presented his flesh and blood in sacrifice as our food and asked us to do this in memory of him. The mystery of faith! A leap in the dark. God empowers us to leap, but cannot leap for us. Some disciples separated from the Eucharistic community. Others, like Peter, remained. No matter what the limitations of our Church community, to whom shall we go? We may not be faithful, but God is always faithful. In Word and Eucharist and Community the Risen Jesus has promised to be with us till the end of time, empowering us to give our lives, too, for each other, in memory of him.

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Korina cleared in maid's wage case

By Michael Lim Ubac

GOOD news for ABS-CBN television newsreader and radio talk show host Korina Sanchez.

The Department of Justice yesterday cleared Sanchez of charges that she had deliberately withheld the salary of her former maid, Bernardita Inocencio, who also filed with the Makati City prosecutor's office charges of slight physical injuries against her and her supposed boyfriend Pol O. Aquino in December last year.

The DOJ dismissed the charges of violation of Section 28 of Republic Act No. 8282 (non-remittance of Social Security System contributions) and Article 116 of the Labor Code (withholding of wages) for "want of evidence."

State prosecutor Roberto A. Lao and prosecution lawyer Mark E. Jalandoni penned the DOJ resolution, which was approved by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito R. Zuno.

The DOJ also junked Inocencio's contention that Sanchez had refused to remit her contributions to the SSS.

The resolution said Sanchez "offered in evidence a photocopy of complainant's SSS coverage for 2000," which also reflected that Inocencio made no contribution for the whole year.

Inocencio had no record of SSS remittances from Jan. to Aug. 2001 despite her employment with previous employers, the resolution said.

"All told, we believe that had complainant truly informed respondent Sanchez or (her secretary Juliet) de los Santos of her SSS membership, the latter would have readily complied in remitting her monthly contributions.

"As pointed out by (the) respondent, a claim which was never denied, much less proved otherwise by the complainant, (Sanchez) was never at all minded in updating her monthly contributions to the SSS," said the resolution.

Inocencio, 42, had filed the charges of non-remittance of SSS contributions with the Pasig City Prosecutors Office, but moved to have the cases transferred to the DOJ to prevent Sanchez from allegedly influencing the outcome of the cases. Her case of slight physical injuries against Sanchez is still undergoing preliminary investigation.

In her complaint-affidavit dated Dec. 27, 2001, Inocencio said she started working as a domestic helper for Sanchez on Sept. 27, 2001 at her residence in Pasig City with a monthly salary of P3,500.

She said she stayed with Sanchez until the broadcaster and her supposed boyfriend Aquino mauled her on Dec. 21 last year inside Aquino's house in Bel-Air, Makati.

"During the whole period I received only P3,500 representing my salary from Sept. 27 to Oct. 27. She gave it to me 10 days later," Inocencio said.

Inocencio said Aquino had given her P2,000 as payment for her "part-time" services to him from Nov. 18 until sometime in December 2001. She said Sanchez had convinced her to work part-time for Aquino so she could earn extra income.

When she informed Sanchez of her salary deductions for her SSS contributions, Inocencio said Sanchez had "repeatedly kept on mouthing defamatory words at her."

She said Sanchez failed to deduct and remit her monthly contributions from October to December 2001 in violation of RA 8282.

But the DOJ found that Sanchez did remit her contributions, even though belatedly.

A certification issued by Elizabeth Reyes of the SSS Diliman Branch showed Sanchez had remitted Inocencio's contributions for October to December 2001.

The DOJ said Sanchez had also been penalized for the late remittance of Inocencio's contributions.

Regarding the charge of deliberate withholding of Inocencio's salary, or violation of Article 116 of the Labor Code, the DOJ said allegation alone was not a proof of guilt.

Inocencio had claimed that Sanchez failed to pay her salary from November to December 2001.

"Was respondent really cruel and cranky most of the time? A perusal of the complaint, couched in the vernacular, would seem to imply that Sanchez is worse than anyone could ever imagine.

"If so, we believe that nothing could have prevented complainant from leaving her employment the soonest time possible, or at the very least, informing the agency of her dilemma and her urgent desire to leave," said the DOJ.

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3	SCORPION KING
4	DEEP END
5	SCORPION KING
6	MASARAP ANG BAWAL
7	SHOWTIME
8	BLADE 2
9	SNOW DOGS
10	MONTE CRISTO

CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	E.T.
2	MONTE CRISTO
3	SHOWTIME
4	SCORPION KING
5	SNOW DOGS
6	S2PID LUV
7	SCORPION KING
8	BLADE 2
9	MIMIC 2
10	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
11	TIME MACHINE
12	ICE AGE

CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SNOW DOGS
2	ICE AGE
3	DEEP END
4	SCORPION KING
5	SHOWTIME
6	SCORPION KING
7	E.T.
8	MIMIC-2
9	S2PID LUV
10	RIPPER
11	BLADE 2
12	MONTE CRISTO

MEGAMALL
6331801 • 6329401

1	SCORPION KING
2	TIME MACHINE
3	SCORPION KING
4	SNOW DOGS
5	ICE AGE
6	DEEP END
7	SHOWTIME
8	RIPPER
9	S2PID LUV
10	BLADE 2
11	MONTE CRISTO
12	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

CITY NORTH EDSA
9299452

1	BLADE 2
2	MONTE CRISTO
3	MASARAP...
4	S2PID LUV
5	DEEP END
6	SNOW DOGS
7	SCORPION KING
8	SHOWTIME
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	ICE AGE
2	DEEP END
3	SCORPION KING
4	SHOWTIME
5	E.T.
6	SNOW DOGS
7	S2PID LUV
8	SCORPION KING
9	BLADE-2
10	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

CITY CEBU
2313876

1	KADAU GAN SA MACTAN
2	SCORPION KING
3	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
4	MAJESTIC
5	BANDITS
6	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7	S2PID LUV
8	SCORPION KING

CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MAJESTIC
2	CLOSED
3	BANDITS
4	S2PID LUV
5	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6	SCORPION KING
7	CLOSED
8	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BLADE 2
2	SCORPION KING
3	SCORPION KING
4	HARTS WAR
5	BLOW DRY
6	S2PID LUV

SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294075

1	RIPPER
2	SCORPION KING
3	MIMIC 2
4	S2PID LUV

CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
2	SCORPION KING
3	S2PID LUV

CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SCORPION KING
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	S2PID LUV
4	SNOW DOGS

CITY DAVAO
2976988

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	BANDITS
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	SCORPION KING
6	WE WERE SOLDIERS

BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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1
2
3
4

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STATE-OF-THE-ART
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3 (DTS)	ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS)	SHOWTIME
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SNOW DOG
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
8	S2PID LUV
9	MONTE CRISTO
10	BLADE 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	RESERVE
2	HOT DOG
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	HARTS WAR
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

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1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

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1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	RIPPER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SNOW DOGS
5	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

METROPOLIS star
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1	HARI NG SELDA
2	IKA PITONG GLORIA
3	S2PID LUV
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5	DEEP END
6	SCORPION KING
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	SCORPION KING

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	ICE AGE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	BUBOT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HOT DOG THE MOVIE
A	SNAKE CHARMER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	ITLOG
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
2	
3	
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5	S2PID LUV
6	PAROLA
7 (DTS)	SHOWTIME
8 (SDDS)	DEEP END
9 (DOLBY)	RIPPER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	S2PID LUV
2	HARI NG SELDA
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
5	SNOW DOG
6 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
7 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
8	PAROLA
9	SHOWTIME

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
6	S2PID LUV
7 (DOLBY)	SNOW DOGS
8	BLADE 2

Gotesco Ortigas
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2	BLADE 2
3 (DTS)	SNOW DOG
4	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
5 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING

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1	SCORPION KING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SCORPION KING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson Lords Jennet	PAROLA MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	PAROLA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	S2PID LUV
5	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	SCORPION KING
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	S2PID LUV
2	BANDITS
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DTS)	BANDITS
3 (DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
4	EVIL WOMAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	S2PID LUV
2 (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	BANDITS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	S2PID LUV
2	MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY)	BANDITS
4 (DTS)	E.T.

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	S2PID 2
2	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
3	SNAKE CHARMER
4 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SNAKE CHARMER
4	EVIL WOMAN
5	BLADE2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	BLOW DRY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	BLOW DRY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TIME MACHINE
2	E.T.
3	ITLOG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	S2PID LUV
2	SCORPION KING
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TIME MACHINE
2 (DTS)	SCORPION KING

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCORPION KING
2	S2PID LUV
3	TIME MACHINE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	EVIL WOMAN
2	MAJESTIC
3	BLADE 2
4	MIMIC 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BLADE 2
2	S2PID LUV
3 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
4	BLOW DRY

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6	MONTE CRISTO
7	ICE AGE
8	SHOW TIME
9	RIPPER
10	BLADE 2

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	SCORPION KING
2	RIPPER
3	SHOWTIME
4	DEEP END
5	S2PID LUV
6	SNOW DOGS
7	SCORPION KING

Metro East -
Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	SHOWTIME
4	SNOW DOGS
5	ICE AGE
6	S2PID LUV
7	BLADE 2
8	RIPPER

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	SHOWTIME
4	RIPPER
5	E.T.
6	BLADE 2
7	ICE AGE
8	S2PID LUV

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	S2PID LUV
4	SNOW DOGS
5	RIPPER
6	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	SCORPION KING
2	BANDITS
3	MAJESTIC
4	MONTE CRISTO
5	ROYAL TENEBAUMS
6	ALI

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	SCORPION KING
2	BANDITS
3	MAJESTIC
4	QUEEN OF THE DUMNED
5	MONTE CRISTO
6	E.T.

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	SCORPION KING
2	SCORPION KING
3	S2PID LUV
4	HARTS WAR
5	EVIL WOMAN
6	EVIL WOMAN

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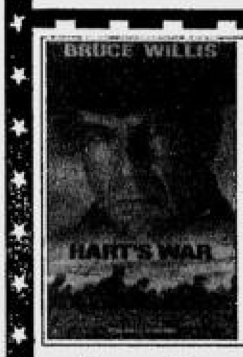

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Quiapo underpass rises again

By Leila B. Salaverria

DARK, dirty, dangerous. These are at the top of a person's mind when he thinks of Quiapo Underpass.

Not anymore.

The thousands of commuters that pass through the once-dreaded subterranean passageway are now in for a treat.

Today, the underpass is not only cleaner, fresher and more spacious, it also has a mini-department store, with decent shops offering all sorts of merchandise, from shoes and clothes to plastic flowers and scented candles.

There is also a wide range of services offered underground, ranging from photocopying to ticketing, where commuters may buy their bus and airplane—even lottery—tickets.

A commuter with a busted watch or cell phone need not go elsewhere. He can have a snack at any of the food stalls there while his watch or phone is being repaired.

The Quiapo underpass has also become safer since its renovation, according to SPO4 Ben Caibigan of the Police Community Precinct in Plaza Miranda.

Since the start of April, police have not recorded any crime incident in the underpass. In March, there had been but "one or two cases," Caibigan said.

"Nothing criminal seems to be happening in the underpass anymore, not since the renovation," he said. "And it's cooler there at noontime."

The underpass does not have centralized air conditioning. But commuters seeking respite from the merciless heat of the noonday sun can sit it out on any of the numerous benches there and savor the cool, refreshing air circulating underground.

Exhibits have also been held there, including a recent one on abortion.

In one corner of the underpass is a clean washroom where commuters can relieve themselves. The washroom, however, has no running water, no mirrors, and women will have to make do with a single cubicle.

And if you want to clean up, there is a pail of water and "tabo" on the side.

Police have set up a help desk near the underpass exit leading to Mercury Drugstore. Problem is, there are times when the desk is unmanned.

But one thing is sure, lawmen make the rounds at all hours to keep the peace.

So if you need help, you'll find it underground.

First-timers in the underpass also need not fret because there are large, clear signs marking the entry and exit points above and below ground. Commuters should no longer fear the Quiapo underpass.

CLEAN and bright and peaceful, the "new" underpass is a far cry from its old dark, dirty and disorderly self. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Court urged to speed up Manor case

By Agnes E. Donato

QUEZON City Mayor Sonny Belmonte Jr. yesterday urged a Quezon City court to speed up the hearing of the Manor Hotel fire case.

The charges filed against the Manor Hotel owners and some City Hall officials in connection with the death of 74 people and the wounding of many others, are being tried in the QC court.

The case is expected to drag on, with the prosecutors having just begun presenting witnesses and other evidence to prove.

"I hope the court expedites the resolution of this case," Belmonte said in a radio interview. "For my part, I will make sure that the case is not delayed by the absence of witnesses from City Hall."

Some of the city's building officials who were charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple serious physical injuries for the Manor Hotel fire are still in City Hall.

Councilor Ariel Inton reported that the resolution granting a special permit to the Manor Hotel owners to turn the burned building into a funeral parlor had passed through the first reading.

The proposed resolution has been referred to the committees on laws, ways and means, zoning and environment for approval.

Inton, one of the councilors who introduced the resolution, said he hoped the resolution would be approved soon.

He maintained that the conversion of the Manor Hotel into a mortuary would not affect the case against the Genatos, the building owners, as they would still be made to get the necessary permits and clearances before they would be allowed to operate as a funeral home.

He also explained that the court's would-be decision on the Manor case would not affect the fact that the Genatos owned the building.

"Besides, the plan would benefit Quezon City residents because they would be provided with free funeral services," Inton said.

The Genatos have agreed to reserve two of the chapels in the planned funeral home for the free use of local residents.

WPD chief: I don't care if . . .

From page A21

He said that he should have at least been informed that they would be dispersed.

But this did not happen because there was no ground commander at the scene when the protesters tried to get near the embassy and throw paint bombs at its seal.

When Pasinos arrived, he was angry and began berating his men.

"I'm the (overall) commander so I asked what happened," he said, explaining the incident. "I did not do that (the scolding) just out of whim and caprice.

"What was I supposed to do? Smile at them while asking what happened? There could have been an incident and people could have been hurt seriously."

He said he did not hit the anti-riot policemen with a truncheon but only "tapped" their heads, which were helmeted anyway, while he asked them what happened.

"They had their helmets on and (the blow) was not strong," he said.

"I don't even remember his name," he added, referring to the policeman who was shown on national television receiving a blow in his head from the truncheon Pasinos had thrown at him.

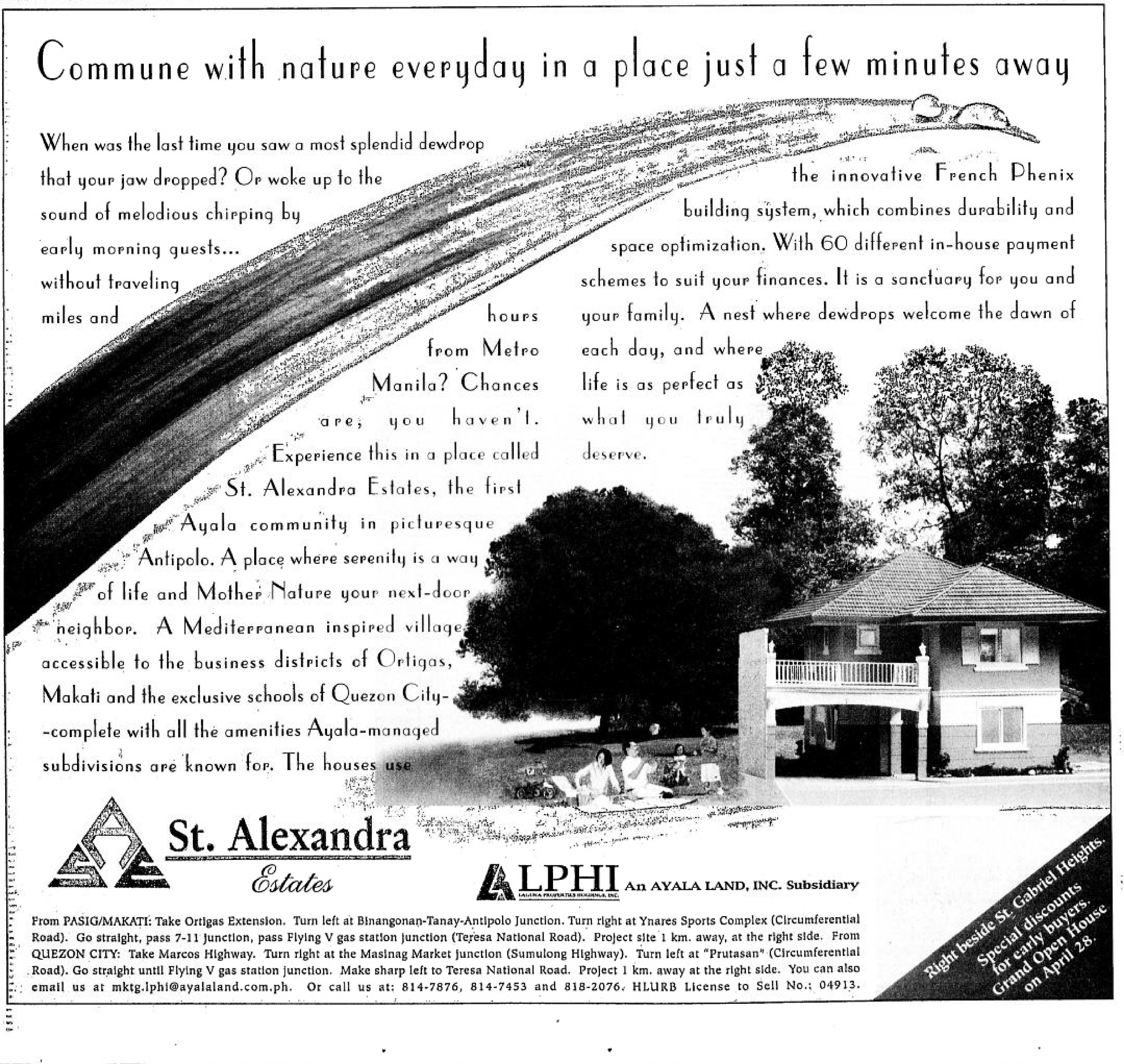
"I was giving the entire unit a lesson and not just that policeman," Pasinos said.

He said he is no politician. "I'm one of the few officers today who really show anger when (I'm) angry. Something went wrong and I should correct it."

For his outburst, the MBFAI on Thursday criticized Pasinos, saying he should have set an example in self-restraint.

But he challenged the senior MFBAI members to join anti-riot policemen "under the sun" during protest actions.

"I'm not generalizing," Pasinos said. "But they're just looking for mistakes. They should help the new recruits since they are also part of the organization. It would have been right (to criticize) if they had been there (at the scene), having a hard time (like the rest of us)."



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Right beside St. Gabriel Heights. Special discounts for early buyers. Grand Open House on April 28.

Haven for scavengers

UNKNOWN to many people, Chat Aban of the alternative band Grupong Pendong is also Teacher Chat to more than a hundred children of the Cashew Tree House Learning Center.

The Cashew Tree House is a school providing quality preschool education to children of Payatas aged 4 to 6. When Teacher Chat does not have gigs or is not in UP for her masteral classes, she holds office in the three-storey Cashew Tree, built about 200 yards from the mountain of garbage that is both home and livelihood to thousands of Payatas scavengers.

"Our school is the only concrete building inside the Payatas area," Aban says, "and it is haven to children needlessly exposed to the very toxic environment of the dumpsite."

For poor Payatas families who cannot afford to send their children even to public school, let alone buy them books and uniforms, the Cashew Tree is a venue for their children to learn, acquire and practice skills and attitudes that will help them look beyond Payatas.

"Our school's main objective is really to provide free, high-quality pre-schooling to children of scavengers, garbage dump workers and contractual workers inside the dump," says Aban, who acts as the principal of the pre-school. "But what we really want is to motivate our students to attain the highest possible level of education for employment and a brighter future."

Chat tells of a child in her nursery class whose main ambition is to finish high school and to "become big and strong" so she can help her parents work in the dumpsite. When Aban asked the child if she would rather become a teacher or a nurse, the child answered, "My mama said that we can only go to high school because it is for free."

"I told her that there are other options like going to college or in a vocational school," Aban recalls. "This way, she will not have to suffer the bad smell of garbage and the searing heat of the sun while on the dumpsite. To this day, I am still praying that I gave her something to think about regarding her future."

The school's graduates are in no way mediocre. Majority perform very well in their elementary grades. There are no reports of elementary level dropouts by any of the graduates of Cashew Tree.

Sustaining and maintaining the gains of the students is a major task for Aban and the rest of the teaching staff. A major problem still is the lack of funds to buy textbooks and to buy even the most basic school supplies for class projects. Most of the students, too, are undernourished and do not even take their meals before attending classes.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like the Asian Students Christian Association, well-meaning friends and local sponsors Smart Communications and its employee-volunteers, the school continues to make ends meet in providing good education.

Employee-volunteers of Smart Communications have consistently supported graduation programs of Cashew Tree. The employees, who belong to Batch 9 of the Smart Supervisory Development Program seminar, have twice sponsored the commencement exercises of the school, providing them with medals, gifts, additional school supplies and food.

They have also helped in putting up a mini-library when they handed over more than P40,000 worth of books and other educational materials to Cashew Tree.

Aban is actively soliciting support from people and groups to form a scholarship fund for the graduates of the Cashew Tree House Learning Center. She says this will provide money for fare and school expenses for each child.

PRAYING is one of the things taught the wards of the Cashew Tree House Learning Center.

LBC'S Book for the Barrios reaches its young beneficiaries.

See Points of View with our greens at view.

Studio 23's "Points of View" will be taped on April 20 at Greenbelt1 (6pm) and Greenbelt2 (9pm).

See Cong. Teddy Boy Locsin, Cher Calvin, Gabe Mercado, and Jessica Zafra live.

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AYALA CENTER
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Courier company with a mission

AFTER years of serving Filipinos here and abroad, LBC, the largest Filipino-owned courier company in the Philippines, gives back to the community, through the LBC Foundation.

The foundation is a non-stock, non-profit organization with the sole mission of improving the education of children by providing instruments that will allow the growth of standards of education.

Since 1998, even before the LBC Foundation was formed, LBC has been the courier of educational materials from the US for rural and urban-poor schools in the Philippines.

The foundation hopes to help in "educating the leaders of the future and the work force which will support the life of industry in the Philippines," says LBC chair Carlos Araneta.

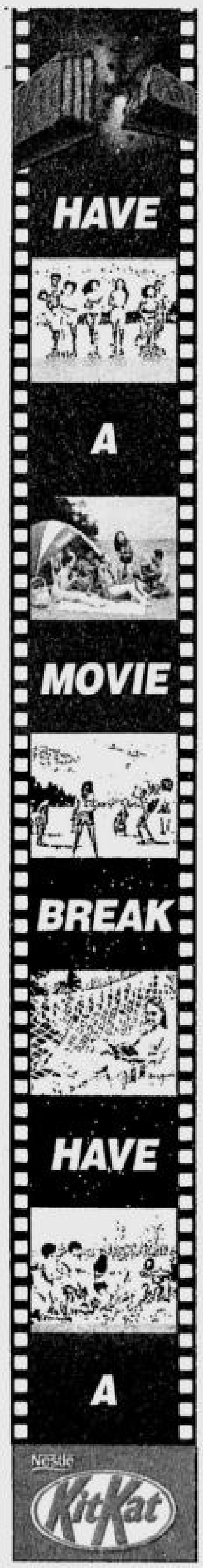
A believer in the family unit as the basic and essential foundation of society, Araneta envisions a community in which children have access to education with the help of individuals, organizations and companies such as LBC.

A partnership with the "Books for the Barrios" project is one of the core projects of the LBC Foundation.

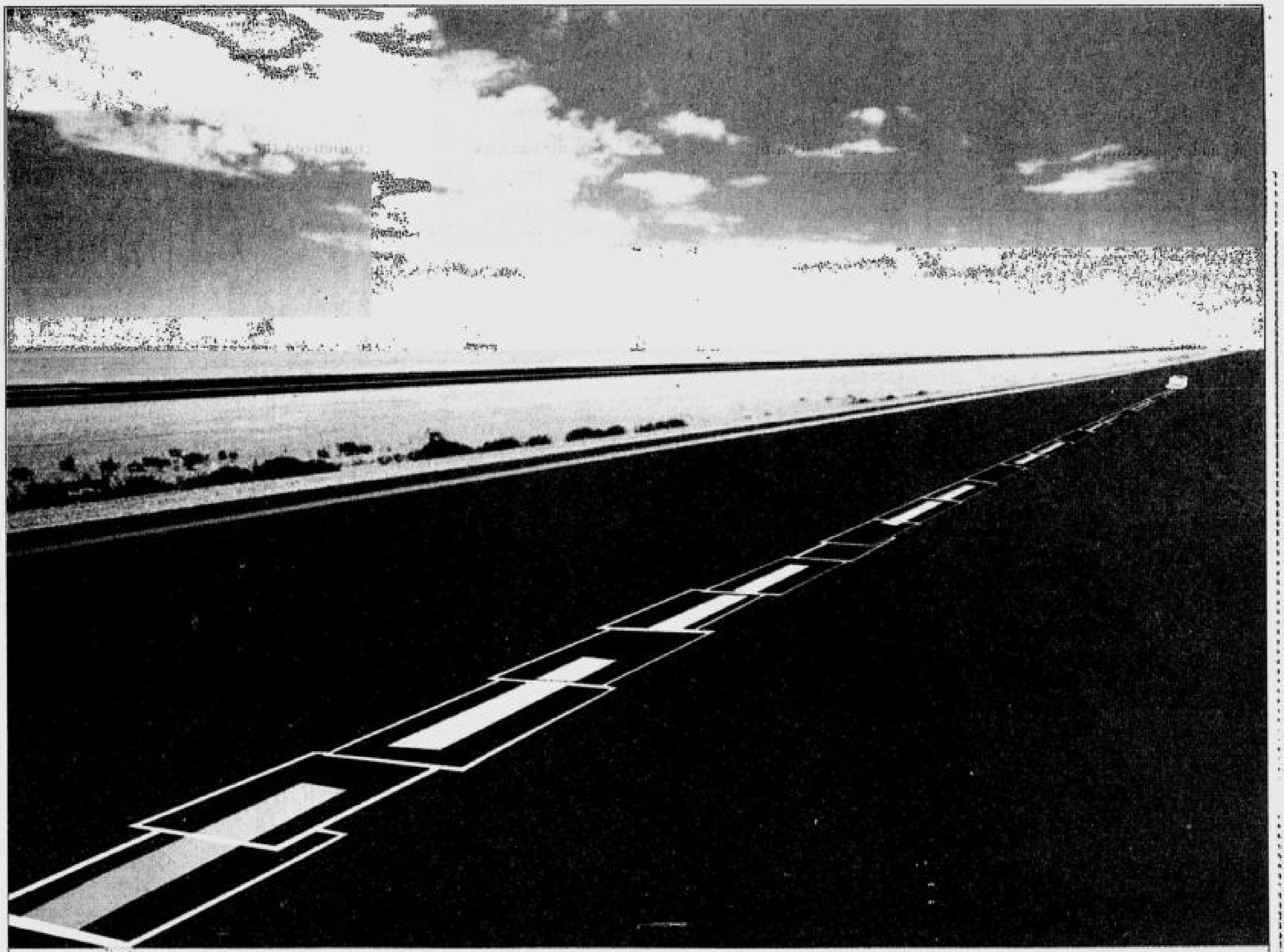
Another major focus of the LBC Foundation is the establishment of a Model of Excellence School, and the upgrading of schools in the provinces and key cities through infrastructure and computers.

LBC Foundation intends to help refurbish a school in Ligao, Albay and adding a pre-school, a library with books from the US and a computer laboratory.

The No. 1 Filipino courier service company intends to carry out its mission and in the process make a difference in the communities it serves.



Catch the Kit Kat gimmick booths at selected cinemas. FREE movie tickets for the 1st 100 moviegoers.



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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0597, Series of 2002.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	S2PID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SNOW DOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DEEP END
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	RIPPER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SCORPION KING
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	INOG SA PILIT/TEEN HOUSED
ODEON	SCORPION KING
ODEON-2	ITLOG
ROBEN	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	HOT DOG
TIMES	THE OTHERS/TIGERS CLAWS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
REMAR-2	SCORPION KING
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
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B	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
C	
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SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
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CINEMA-2	3RD GERMAN FILM WEEK
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOTDOG
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
CINEMA-7	E.T.
CINEMA-8	BLADE 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-12	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-14	RIPPER
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-2	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-3	SNOW DOGS
CINEMA-4	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-5	DEEP END
CINEMA-6	SCORPION KING
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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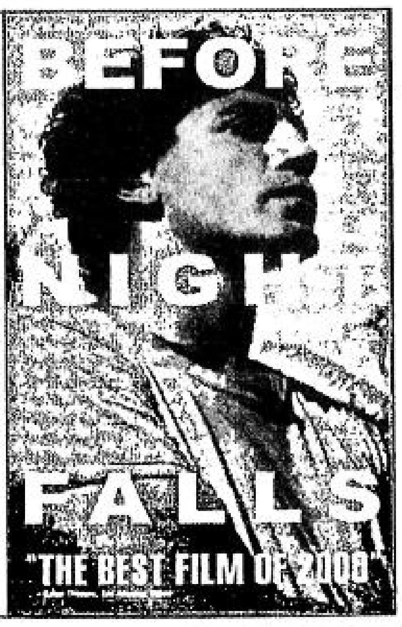
"'Before Night Falls' is rapturous, intoxicating filmmaking... Don't miss it! Javier Bardem gives a mesmerizing and inspired performance!"
-Rex Reed, New York Observer

"'Before Night Falls' is a potent, visually stunning masterpiece! Javier Bardem gives a riveting, emotionally naked performace."
-Guy Flatley, Interview

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R) Strictly For Adults

WARNING! This film is unanimously rated R-18 for its adult thematic content which is Homosexuality and scenarios of NUDITY.

AYALA CINEMAS SKYFILMS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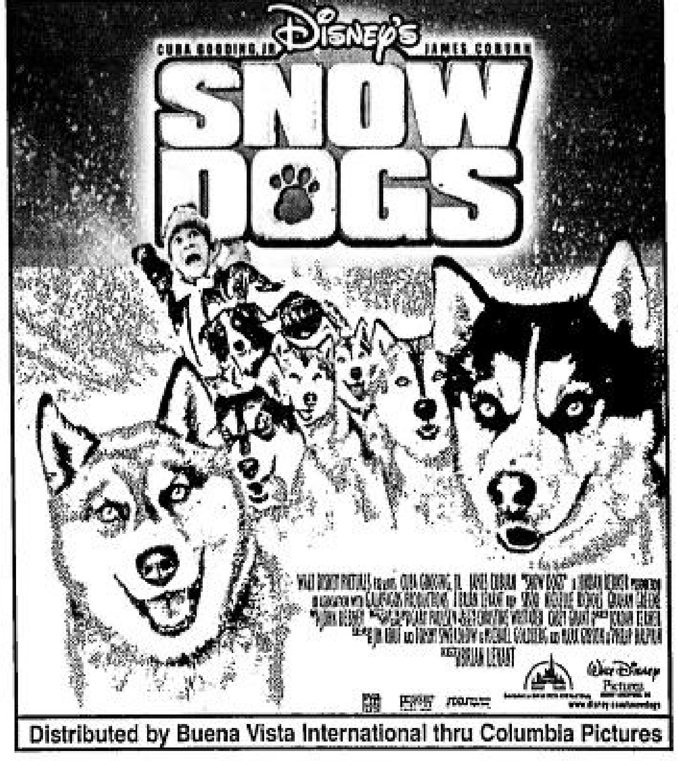
CUBA GOODING JR.
Disney's
JAMES COBURN
SNOW DOGS
Walt Disney Pictures

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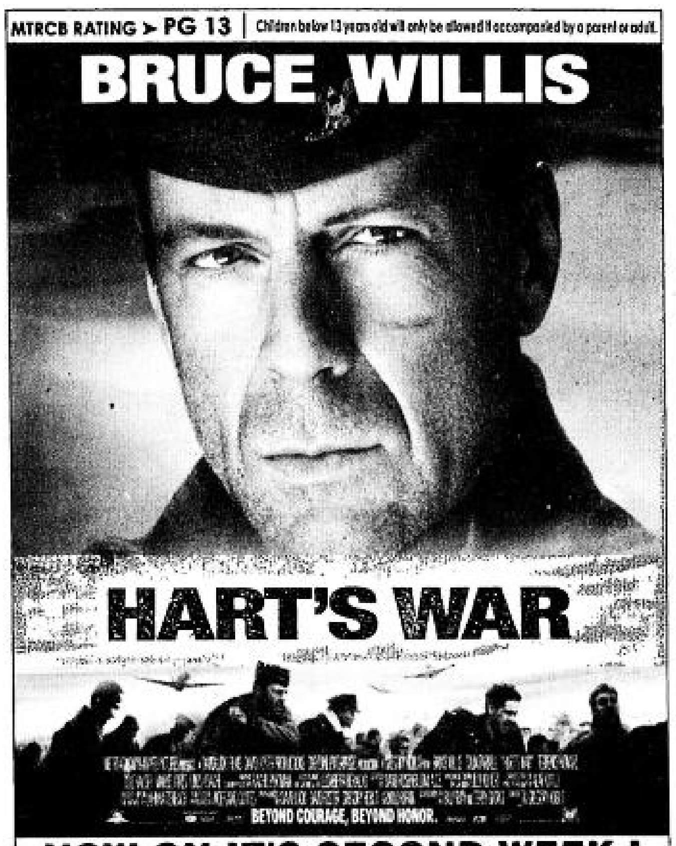
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BEYOND COURAGE, BEYOND HONOR.

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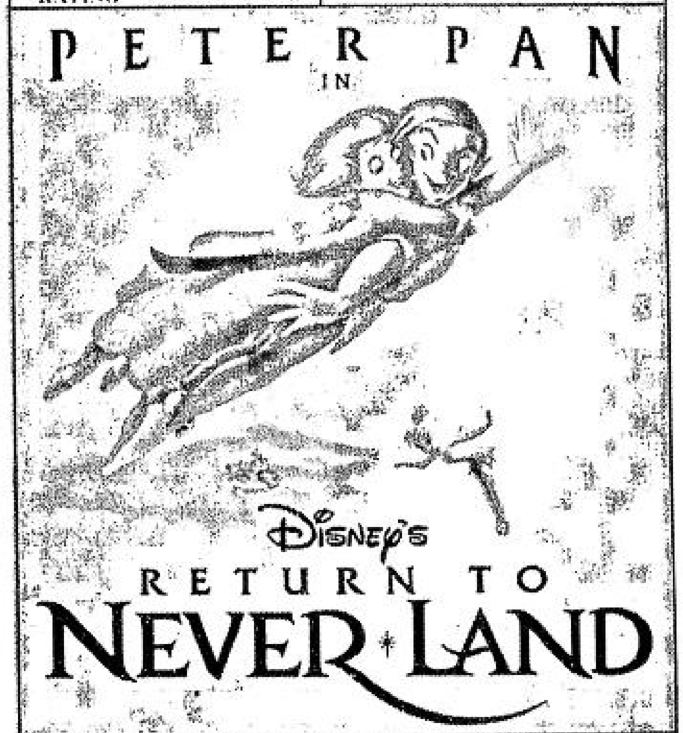
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Disney's
RETURN TO NEVER LAND

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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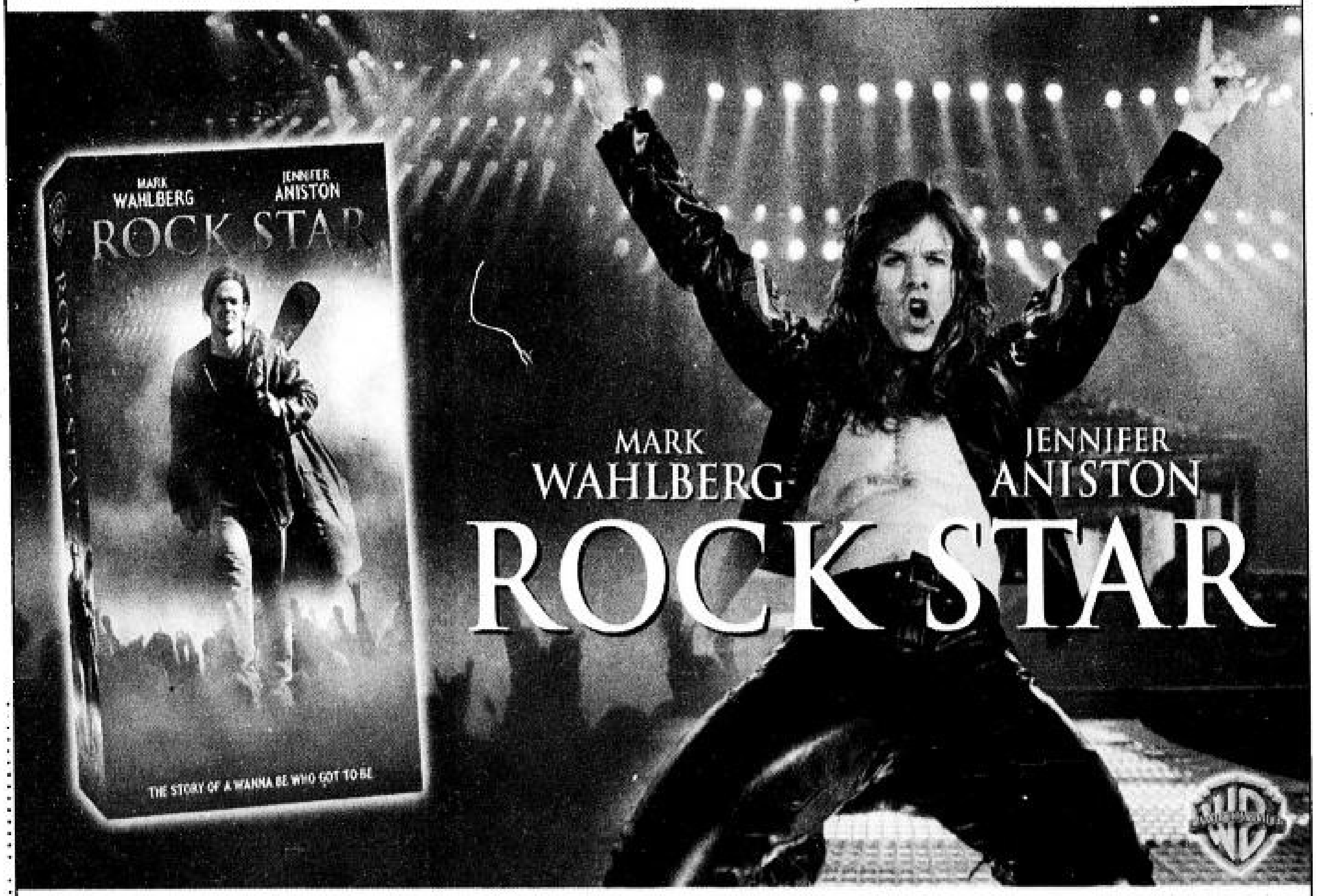
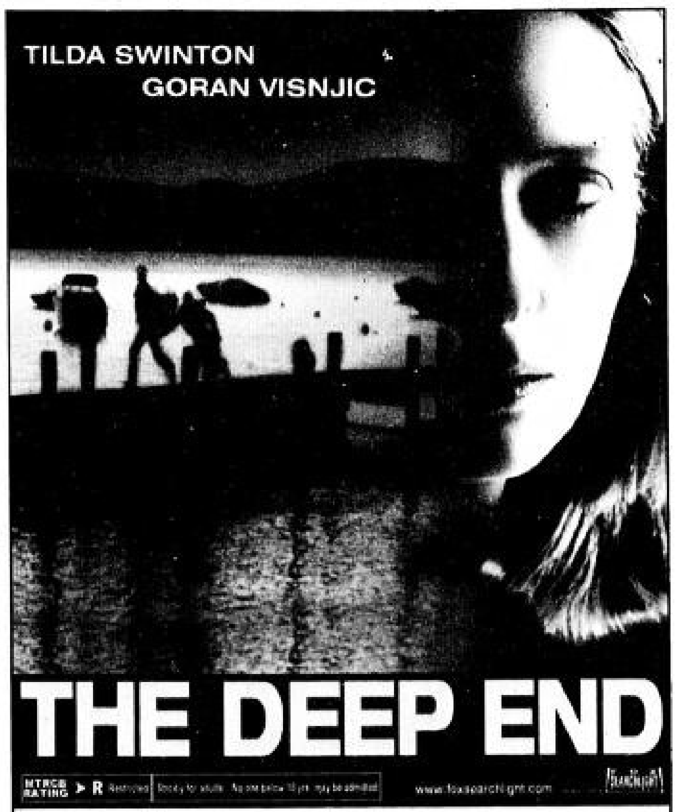

MARK WAHLBERG
JENNIFER ANISTON
ROCK STAR
THE STORY OF A WANNA BE WHO GOT TO BE
MARK WAHLBERG
JENNIFER ANISTON
ROCK STAR

A HEAD-BANGING STORY OF FAME AND THE PRICE IT TAKES!


TILDA SWINTON
GORAN VISNJIC
THE DEEP END
MTRCB RATING ▶ R
www.foxsearchlight.com

NOW SHOWING

10 cops charged with extort, child abuse

THREE people, including a 10-year-old boy, have accused 10 members of the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Central Police District Station 3 of arbitrary detention, illegal arrest, grave coercion and child abuse.

The charges were filed against Supt. Gerardo Ratuita, SPO3 Brigido An, SPO1 Edgardo Ramos, SPO1 Roberto Miras, SPO1 Danilo Cruz, SPO1 Reginaldo Nazareno, SPO1 Edwil Catiis, PO2 Virgilio Bernardo, PO1 Robert Dante and PO1 Cecil Collado.

The complainants are businessman Herminigildo Escorial III, 30, of Project 4, Quezon City; eatery owner Amelita Escorial, 55, and her grandson Marlon Escorial, 10, both of Cubao, also in Quezon City.

Investigator PO3 Ferdinand Paredes said the accused allegedly arrested the three complainants on Arayat Street in Cubao in the afternoon of April 15 and detained them without filing any charges against them.

Earlier, a boy reportedly complained to the police that Marlon had stolen his cellular phone.

The policemen then went to Amelita's *carinderia* and arrested the three Escorials.

They took the complainants to the CPD Station 3, where they detained them for several hours without filing any charges against them, the investigator said.

The boy was handcuffed for the entire time that he and the two adults were detained, the investigator said.

Amelita said that SPO1 Miras slapped her for no apparent reason.

The complainants said they were released only after they paid P1,500 to the accused policemen.

Kidnapping raps vs pair's snatchers

By Agnes E. Donato

KIDNAPPING with ransom charges were filed yesterday before a Quezon City court against the 10 suspects in the abduction of a Filipino-Chinese businessman and a woman in Cainta, Rizal last week.

Jose Adelantar, 51; Lowhen Almonte, 37; Betty Salvador, 51; Morey Dadaan, 22; Jubert Banatao, 24; Marcelo Llanora, 52; Robert Gonzales, 37; Ricky Peña, 31; Roger Pesado, 35; and Monico Salvador were charged before the sale of Judge Jose Catral Mendoza of Regional Trial Court Branch 219.

Separate charges of kidnapping and serious illegal detention were also filed against Gonzales, Llanora, Pena, Pesado and Betty and Monico Salvador.

Assistant state prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon recommended no bail against the suspects, who are detained at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group headquarters in Camp Crame.

The 10 are accused of kidnapping Albert Lee Yam, 44, of Corinthian Gardens, and Pinky Gonzalez, 25, of San Francisco del Monte, both in Quezon City, near the New Cainta Coliseum in Cainta last week.

Yam said that he was driving his Toyota Prado on his way home when a Toyota Hi-Ace van blocked his path. Two men alighted from the van and approached another car, a white Honda Civic, which Gonzales was driving.

Yam said he saw the two men take Gonzales out of her car and drag her into their vehicle. He said the others told him to get off his car at gunpoint. He was also put in the van.

Yam said that after an hour of driving, the group brought him and Gonzales to a house.

The group demanded $1 million in ransom money from his wife, Yam said. But police arrested Adelantar, Pena and Llanora as they were about to collect the money from Yam's wife in the parking lot of a fast-food store in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cavite reunion

CLASS 1941 of Cavite High school will hold a reunion on April 27, 2002 at the residence of Mrs. Cely J. del Rosario in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. The event coincides with Del Rosario's birthday.

Antonio, 73

PRISCILLA Santillan vda de Antonio, mother of People's Journal sports editor Jose S. Antonio, died Friday after a lingering illness. She was 73 and was known as "Ima" among friends and relatives.

She is survived by Joe and Lita, Leo and Grace, Rene and Minda, Jun and Minda, Edgar, brothers Exequiel, Cesar, Jacinto and sisters Africa, Aurea, Belen and Abella. Her remains lie in state at the San Roque Chapel in San Roque, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Garcia, 56

EDUARDO Gonzalez Garcia, senior branch manager (Ilaya) of Prudential bank, died of cardiac arrest at the Medical City on April 17. He was 56.

His body lies in state at the Our Lady of Sorrows Church on F.B. Harrison in Pasay City.

He will be buried today at the Pasay City Cemetery after a 2 p.m. Mass.

Quesada, 87

AMPARO A. Quesada, long-time chief nurse of the Philippine General Hospital, died April 18 after a lingering illness. She was 87. Ms Quesada was a graduate of the UP-PGH School of Nursing and held a masteral degree in nursing administration from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Gertrudes Q. Lazaro, a brother, Juan Quesada Jr., nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

Yesterday, Mass was offered in her memory at the UP-PGH chapel before her body was brought to her hometown in Paete, Laguna, where it lies in state at the family residence.

ROLLERBALL
GET IN THE GAME.
www.rollerball.com

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Bakbakan na!

Hot movie on new 'bloodsport' from the director of 'Die Hard'

High-octane action director John McTiernan (DIE HARD) presents a hot new movie packed with head-slamming action, breakneck speed and visceral thrills, in Columbia Pictures' ROLLERBALL.

In 2005, a violent game is the world's #1 phenomenon. Watched by the entire world, Rollerball is an extreme blood sport played with motorbikes, skates, a figure 8 track, a steel ball -- and no rules.

But the world's most dangerous game is about to become deadly. When serious on-court accidents bring higher viewer ratings, the players soon find themselves playing for their lives!

Stars Chris Klein of AMERICAN PIE, LL Cool J, and the incredibly sexy Rebecca Romijn Stamos.

THE BATTLE begins APRIL 24!

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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 SCORPION KING	1 SHOWTIME	4 BEFORE THE NIGHT FALLS	1 MONTE CRISTO	1 SCORPION KING
2 S2PID LUV	2 SCORPION KING	5 DEEP END	2 SCORPION KING	2 SCORPION KING
3 SCORPION KING	3 SCORPION KING 11:30/1:35/3:40/5:45/7:50/9:55/12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 SCORPION KING	3 SHOWTIME	3 SCORPION KING
4 SHOWTIME		7 SNOW DOGS	4 LANI ON SATGE APRIL 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 DEEP END
				5 SNOW DOGS

The Ayala Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
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The Ayala Malls Job Fair

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Glorietta Activity Center

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Cebu - April 25-26
Activity Center

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THE SCORPION KING

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MONTE CRISTO-P13	SCORPION KING- P 13	SNOW DOGS - GP
11:20, 2:00, 4:40,7:20,10:00	11:00, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20	12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30
SHOWTIME - P 13	**DEEP END - R18**	**SCORPION KING-P13**
11:10, 1:20, 3:30,5:40, 7:50, 10:00	12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	12:00, 2:00, 4:05, 6:10, 8;15, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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CINEMA	FILM	SCHEDULE	RATING
1	SCORPION KING	10:30 / 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30 / 10:30	P13
2	SCORPION KING	11:00, 10:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9;00, 11:00	P13

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm: Saturday, Sunday, Holidays
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM
APRIL 19 & 20 K NA K KA NA DA? (ALLAN K.) 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS CALL

METRO

Less colorum buses on Edsa–LTO

Minimum of 50 vehicles caught every day, says Lastimoso

By Abigail L. Ho

WHERE there used to be 7,000 colorum buses, there are now just about 5,000.

The number of colorum buses has dropped significantly from last year to the first quarter of the year as efforts to catch them and permanently get them off Edsa continue in earnest, according to the Land Transportation Office.

LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso made this claim despite criticisms and allegations of coddling of the law violators themselves.

In a telephone interview on Wednesday, the former Philippine National Police chief said the LTO was always full of impounded colorum buses, a sign that the agency was doing its job.

"We're operating every day," he said. "In fact, we catch a minimum of 50 buses a day. We impound these buses and make sure they don't go back to the streets again."

Colorum buses are those that go beyond the specified routes on their franchises or those that have no franchises at all.

The Department of Transportation and Communications, to which the LTO is attached, last year conducted a survey of buses plying Edsa.

According to the survey, there were around 7,000 buses plying Edsa, but only 4,000 of them had legitimate franchises.

As of February, however, this number has gone down to 5,000 buses, a mix of the legitimate and the not so legitimate, according to the LTO.

Lastimoso said he expects this figure to further decline when they conduct another survey soon.

"We're working non-stop to rid the streets of colorum buses," he stressed.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, in a statement Wednesday, reacted to reports that there was a syndicate that protected these colorum buses, a syndicate reportedly controlled by a police officer. Alvarez ordered Lastimoso and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chair Dante Lantin to look into the reports and submit their findings to him as soon as possible.

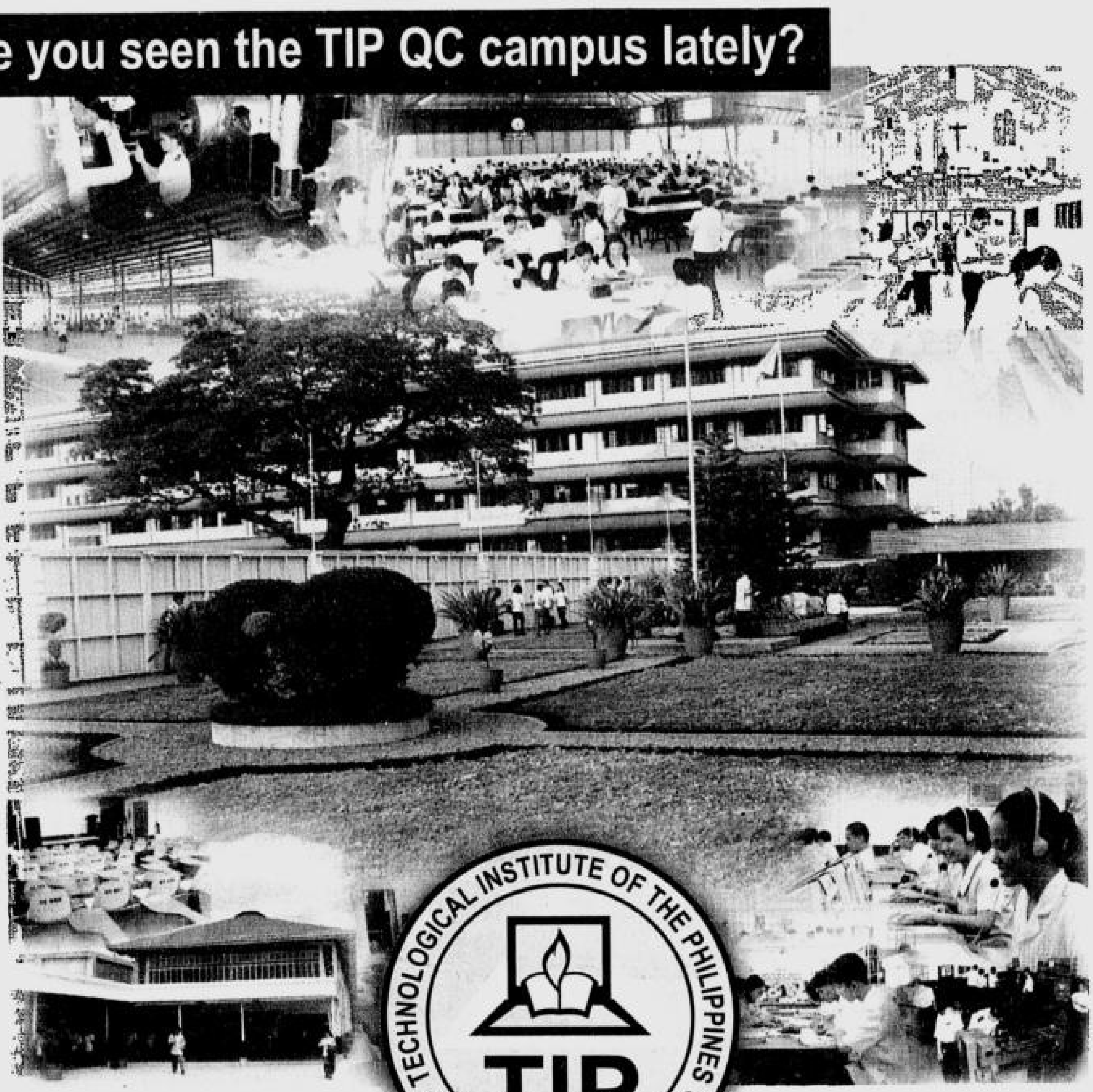
But Lastimoso denied having heard of such a syndicate, saying the LTO has been working overtime to keep the streets free of colorum buses.

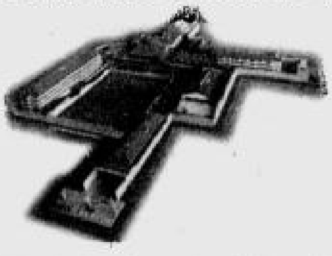
"I haven't heard of that, but I'll check it just the same," he said. "I hope the reports aren't true."

Alvarez appealed to bus organizations and legitimate bus operators to help the DOTC crack down on illegitimate operators.

"I ask the cooperation and assistance of bus organizations and legitimate owners of public utility buses not to deal with syndicates offering protection," he said. "Only the government can provide protection for them."

The DOTC is also working hand in hand with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to get rid of the colorum buses.





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Oil companies cut Pandacan operations

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TWO OF the country's biggest oil refiners yesterday announced they were starting to scale down operations in their Pandacan terminals in the wake of the Manila city government's order to remove the facilities.

Petron president Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq said in a statement the move was meant to address (Manila's) worries about the depot's safety and security.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. official, who did not want to be named, said in an interview that the firm also had similar moves.

"This is not prelude to relocation," the official said. "This is part of our efforts under an agreement with the energy department to study the (Pandacan dilemma)."

Caltex Philippines Inc., which completes the Big Three domestic refiners, declined to comment on the matter.

"This is also to reiterate that Petron's main concern is not only the safety of our workers but also that of the surrounding communities," Petron's Al-Ma'ashouq said.

In a telephone interview, another Petron official said the move did not mean the start of relocating the depot, but declined to give details. The official also assured there would be no reduction in the oil supply in Manila because of the scaling down of Petron's depot operations.

He said Petron would effect the phasedown in stages. The first stage involves concentrating its facilities in a smaller area, he said.

"This will give us a green zone that will serve as a buffer area to protect our tank farm (giant containers)," the Petron official said.

About half of Petron's products is handled in Pandacan and is distributed in Metro Manila. Its Pandacan terminal also houses a lubricants plant that supplies the manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

Earlier, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said the three major oil refiners expected to spend about P10 billion if and when the Pandacan depots were to be relocated.

But Perez said relocation of the facilities was not yet a given as the energy department was still in talks with the oil firms on the proper approach to the issue.

Good gov't, not Cha-cha, says Atienza

By Jerome Aning

GOOD and efficient government, not amendments to the Charter, are what the country needs now to get out of its current economic slump.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza aired this position yesterday in the face of moves in Congress to amend the Constitution.

"What we need right now is to unite," Atienza said in a press statement. "The charter change issue is very divisive."

But the statement did not mention several reforms which he has been pushing that could be only effected by amending the Charter.

Among these are the transfer of control of the police to local government units and changing Metro Manila's administration to a system similar to that of a province.

Atienza said the country would be heading for disaster if Charter change, popularly called "Cha-cha," are carried out.

He said the people must reject moves to tinker with the Constitution. He said priority should be a "pro-active, honest and efficient government."

"Let us forget and set aside Cha-cha for now," he said. "Let us unite first and work harder."

He said it would be better to spend the government's limited financial resources on programs aimed at jumpstarting the economy and alleviating poverty rather than on "counter-productive efforts" such as Charter change.

Atienza's position is supported by the majority of members of the city council, which is set to pass a resolution opposing Charter change.

The position of the councilors solidified during their session on Thursday, when Councilor Percival Floirendo, the city's Sangguniang Kabataan federation president, delivered a speech denouncing Cha-cha.

Councilors Kim Atienza, Joy Dawis-Asuncion, Mitch Cuna, Re Fugoso, Marlon Lacson and Miles Roces also stood up on the floor to support the move.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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2-month budget deficit hits ₱35.94B

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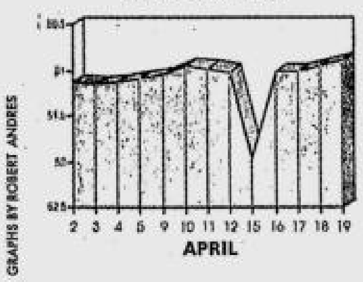


GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱50.890 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 19, 2002

¥ 130.17 = $1

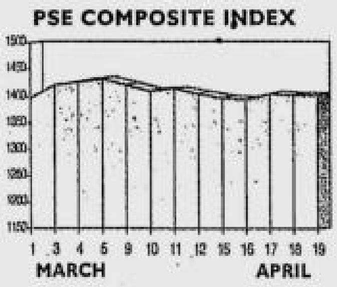
As of 5 p.m., April 19, 2002

GOLD: $303.20/303.70

per ounce Hong Kong, April 19, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Bargain-hunting lifts stocks



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES closed almost flat yesterday after paring mid-day losses of more than one percent on bargain hunting in selected stocks led by Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and its parent Ayala Corp.

Traders said foreign players have been slowly buying stocks despite the expected re-weighting of Philippine companies on the Morgan Stanley Capital Index (MSCI) as some investors took notice of the companies' improving fundamentals rather than their free float—the basis of the MSCI weighting.

The Philippine stock index slid 0.42 point or 0.03 percent to end at 1,401.36 points, recovering from an intra-day low of 1,383.91 points. The market was also flat for the week, losing 0.3 percent from the previous week.

However, the market was still up 19.97 percent so far this year, one of the five best performers in the region year to date. *Reuters*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT posted a budget deficit of P35.94 billion for the first two months of the year due to robust spending and modest revenue collections.

However, analysts said the deficit was within expectations given the Macapagal administration's intent to boost spending to pump-prime the economy.

"The deficit as of February is within the target levels. We are confident of meeting the full year objectives," said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza.

The deficit represented 67.9 percent of the first quarter's programmed deficit of P52.93 billion. The total expenditure for the first two months stood at P121.14 billion while revenues came in at P85.2 billion, the Department of Finance said in a statement.

The BIR collected P59.889 billion in the first two months of the year or 60.2 percent of its target for the first quarter and 0.4 percent higher than last year's revenue.

The Customs bureau raised P13.719 billion for the government or 59.2 percent of the first-quarter target and 9.8 percent up from the first two months of 2001.

This early, the Bureau of Treasury already reached 83.8 percent of its first-quarter target at P3.942 billion, a level 43 percent more than last year's. Other revenue-generating offices also contributed P7.649 billion to state coffers or 91.9 percent of the first-quarter target and up 45.9 percent from 2001.

Meantime, lower interest rates this year had pushed the debt servicing to only 53.2 percent of the first-quarter target at P27.248 billion. In February, interest payments stood at P12.203 billion compared with P15.206 billion in January.

The deficit has been a concern because the government has a record of vastly overshooting its targets. This has raised worries over the impact on the economy and doubts over good governance.

"It's in line with their projection . . . they have a decent shot at their budget target for this year," said David Cohen, an economist at MMS/S&P in Singapore.

The government's budget deficit target for this year is P130 billion. In 2001, it posted a budget deficit of P147 billion, slightly over its target of P145 billion but analysts said this was within the margin of error.

Cohen added there was less concern this year about the government failing to meet target after last year's performance.

Charlie Lay, an analyst at 4CAST said the two-month budget deficit was "within expectations" and there were few implications for the peso with much of the news factored in.

For the month of February, the national government incurred a budget deficit of P20.96 billion with revenues of P37.9 billion and expenditures of P58.86 billion.

The government has said it expected the deficit to be high in the first quarter, as it planned to frontload expenditure to kickstart the fragile economic recovery.

With a report from Reuters

RP debt stock rose to ₱2.427T in January

FRESH foreign and local borrowings of the government pushed the country's debt stock higher by 11 percent as of January to P2.427 trillion from P2.186 trillion a year ago.

On a month-on-month basis, however, the level of outstanding debts grew only by P42 billion or 1.8 percent from P2.385 trillion in December 2001, documents from the Bureau of Treasury showed.

Aside from increased borrowings, particularly from the domestic market, the local currency was slightly weaker in January compared with the previous year but was slightly stronger compared with the December figure.

The government has used a foreign exchange average of P51.20 to a dollar when computing its obligations in January compared with an average of P49.50 in January 2001 and P51.50 in December 2001.

Of the total government debt stock in January, borrowings from the local market went up by 14.5 percent to P1.263 trillion from P1.103 trillion a year ago but was up only by 1.3 percent from P1.248 trillion in December.

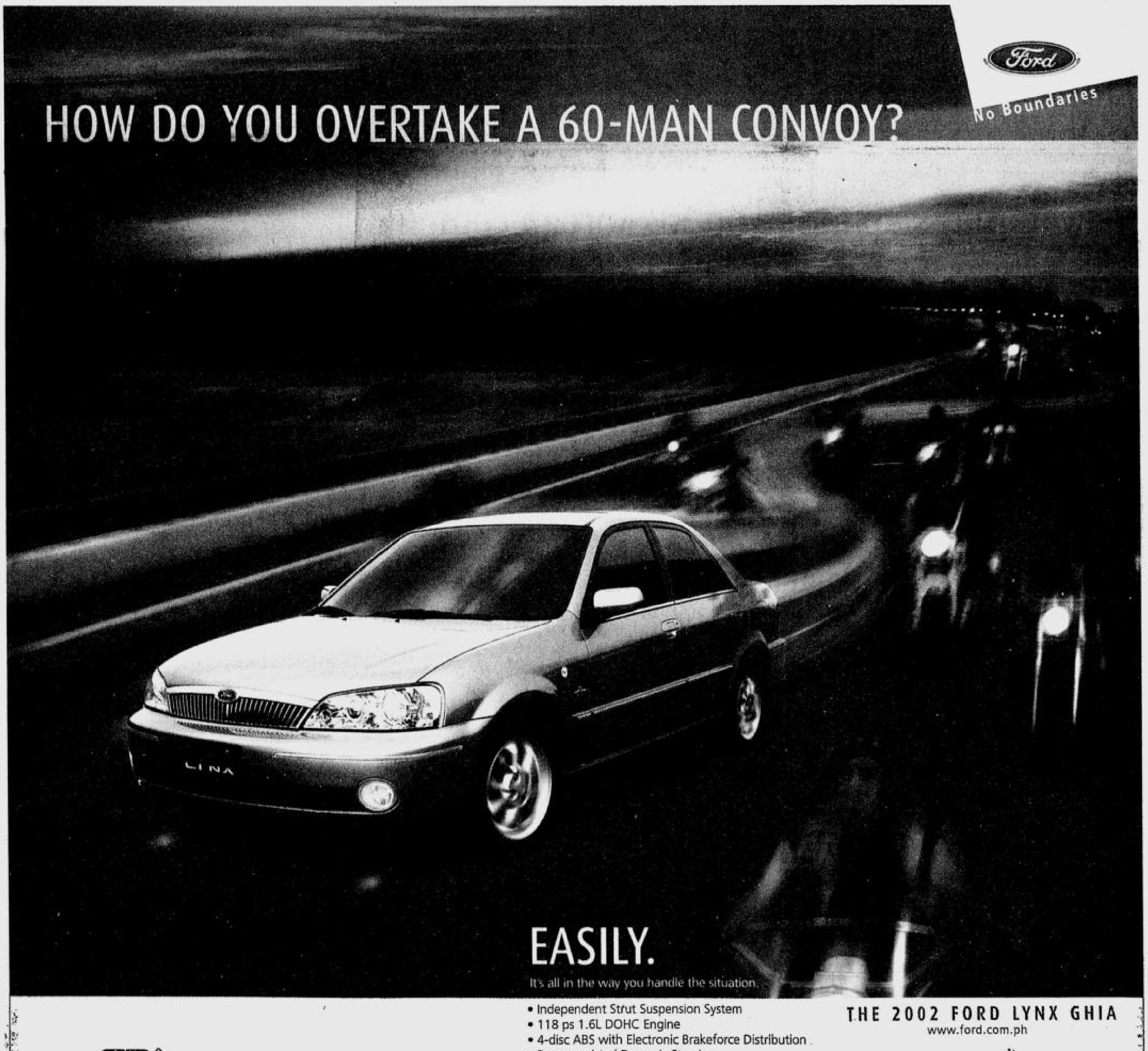
The Treasury noted that its domestic borrowings through the issuance of treasury bills and bonds were simply recurring in January and the size of government securities auctioned was not increased.

A government official explained that the treasury bills and bonds issued during the month only replaced those maturing on a regular basis of three months, six months and one year as well as the longer-term debt papers.

Foreign loans went up by 7.4 percent in January to P1.164 trillion from P1.083 trillion. Compared with December, external obligations rose by 2.3 percent from P1.137 trillion.

The increase in foreign loans could be attributed to the $750

RP/ B2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Mirant seen buying Anscor's 32% stake in Toledo Power

By Elena R. Torrijos

A. SORIANO Corp., the holding company of the Soriano family, yesterday said it had signed an agreement to sell, through ARB Power Ventures Inc., its 32.5-percent stake in Toledo Power Co. to Mirant Toledo Holdings Corp.

TPC owns the Sangi Thermal Plant and the Carmen Diesel Power Plant in Toledo, Cebu.

"The terms and conditions of the final sale are still being worked on. Another disclosure will be submitted upon the signing of the final sale agreement," Anscor vice president and assistant corporate secretary Reginaldo Hernandez said in a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Last Wednesday, Anscor chair and chief executive Andres Soriano III said the company, together with the Gokongwei group and an American shareholder, were in talks to sell their combined interest in TPC.

JG Summit Holdings, the holding company of the Gokongwei family, has a 20-percent interest in TPC.

For its part, Anscor is expecting to earn from the sale the book value of its investment in the company worth P200 million, Soriano said.

Soriano said the company wanted to sell out because it was not comfortable being in the power business. Also, the company thinks it is high time to get out of TPC as its contract with National Power Corp. is due to expire.

TPC generated total sales of P641.6 million last year and operating income of P127.6 million. Net profit declined to P97.6 million in 2001 from P128.3 million the year before because of the peso depreciation and the higher price of coal.

Anscor, for its part, reported a net income of P478.4 million last year, a reversal of the previous year's net loss of P310.9 million.

DENR says ADB to release $300M in 'clean air' loans

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE ASIAN Development Bank is set to release some $300 million in loans tied to the implementation of the Clean Air Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has announced.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the ADB agreed to release these loans—part of a $500-million facility—as the government had already met the remaining requirements of the Metro Manila Air Quality Improvement Sector Development Program.

One of these requirements is the setting up of an "air monitoring system" in Metro Manila, Alvarez said.

"After the ADB's reorganization, we got an approval to rehabilitate and upgrade the ambient air monitoring system . . . for the Metro Manila air shed. This partly fulfills the condition set by the ADB for the release of the second tranche of the loan package scheduled to be released this year," Alvarez told the INQUIRER.

The air monitoring system is part of the government's efforts to enforce air emission standards for manufacturing plants operating in the capital region.

With the system in place, according to Alvarez, funds meant for the environment-protection projects of the DENR and other government agencies will soon be released.

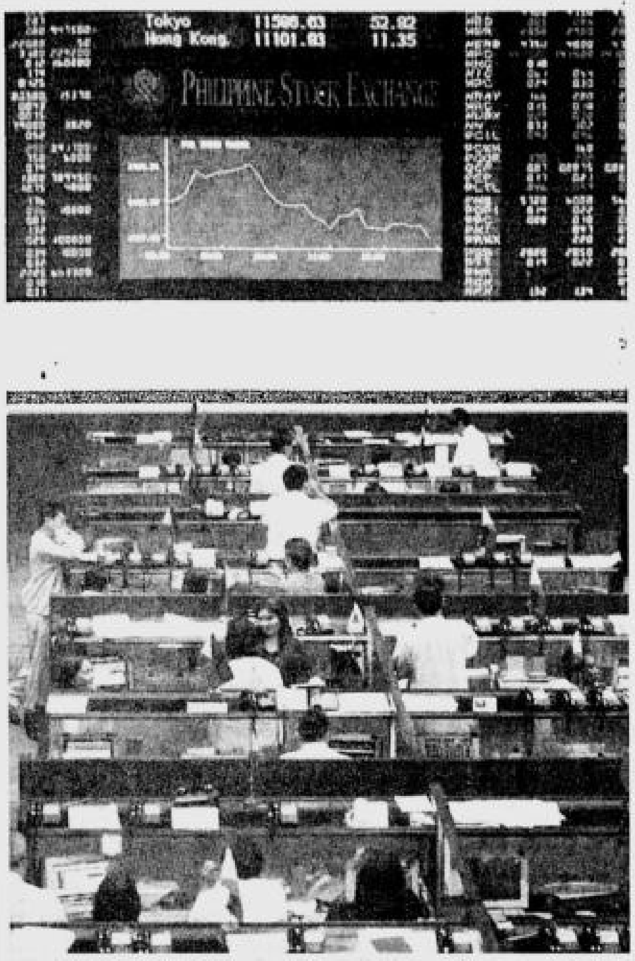
Apart from the DENR, other agencies with projects related to the Clean Air Act are the Department of Transportation and Communications, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Health, Department of Energy, Metro Manila Development Authority, and Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Apart from controlling harmful factory emissions, the government is also trying to check smoke belching through its motor vehicle inspection system.

The program covers close to 3.7 million vehicles that are said to be adding to Metro Manila's air pollution problems.

The implementation of the Clean Air Act was delayed for two years, as companies running oil refineries and sugar mills sought more time to comply with environment standards set under the Clean Air Act.

Oil companies had to set up new facilities to process low-sulfur diesel and unleaded gasoline.



TRADERS at the Philippine Stock Exchange look at a giant screen shortly after the close of the trading day. Share prices closed marginally lower yesterday on profit-taking, brokers said. The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 0.42 points to close at 1,401.36. AFP

Taiwan may slap tariffs on RP, Korean cement

TAIPEI—Taiwan may impose up to 127 percent anti-dumping tariffs on cement products from South Korea and the Philippines in the next two months, a financial official said yesterday.

Nine South Korean and Filipino cement makers had been found dumping cement products here after a 10-month probe by the finance ministry, said the official who declined to be named.

"These companies could face anti-dumping tariffs ranging from 42 percent to 126.8 percent pending assessment of the economic ministry on the extent of damages to the business of local cement makers," he said.

A final ruling was to be made within the next two months, he added.

Investigation of the dumping allegation started in July last year after complaints from several Taiwanese cement producers including Taiwan Cement and Asia Cement.

As a result of the dumping, shipments from the two countries skyrocketed to account for 63.3 percent of Taiwan's total cement imports in the first half of 2001 compared to 4.1 percent in 1998, according to the finance ministry.

At the same time, their combined market share in Taiwan jumped to 13 percent last year from only 0.6 percent three years ago.

In the Philippines, the government still could not agree on whether to impose punitive duties or quota on cement imports despite the alleged dumping by Taiwanese, Thai and South Korean cement firms.

The Department of Trade and Industry earlier imposed a provisional duty of P20.60 per bag on cement imports. However, the Tariff Commission rejected the move and the DTI's plan to impose punitive duties and quotas on imported cement.

Following this setback, the DTI elevated the issue to the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters, chaired by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo said she supported the DTI's position considering the harm inflicted by the dumped imports on the local cement manufacturing industry.

Roxas earlier said the DTI would continue to push for a "managed solution"—high tariffs to repel dumped imports and a firm commitment by manufacturers to keep prices within P125 and P135 per bag—in lieu of a free market response to address the cement industry's problem.

He claimed that consumers hardly benefited from a free market, as cement prices had been soaring since January 2000. *AFP, with an INQUIRER report*

La Tondeña buying back shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., the hard liquor unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., yesterday announced a program to buy back up to 10 percent of its outstanding shares to take advantage of low market prices and, at the same time, improve its earnings ratio.

This developed as LTDI yesterday reported a 36-percent increase in net income to P411 million in the first quarter of the year from year-ago level. The company considers the first quarter performance "record-breaking" considering that it was achieved even after it had sold its water and juice businesses.

In a statement, LTDI said operating income for the first three months of the year was up by 4 percent to P685 million year-on-year. This was attributed to the implementation of aggressive belt-tightening efforts to reduce fixed costs. Consolidated revenues stood at P2.6 billion or slightly down from last year's P2.7 billion as the company directed its efforts to bring down receivables and trade inventory levels.

Analysts have started taking a second look at LTDI after the transfer of its non-liquor businesses worth about $141 million to affiliate Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., a move that raised doubts over the company's earning potentials.

Explaining the objective of the buyback, LTDI president Arnaldo Africa said: "The proceeds from the sale of our water and juice businesses combined with the strong internal cash generation from operations provided us more liquidity than we need at the moment."

Digitel net income jumps to ₱67M

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. reported a hefty increase in its consolidated net income last year to P66.9 million from P4.7 million in the previous year.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the listed telecommunications arm of the Gokongwei family disclosed that its consolidated operating revenue grew by 35 percent to P6.517 billion last year from P4.823 billion in the previous year.

Digitel, which will launch its cellular phone service business this year, said the growth in its fixed line revenue was brought about by the increase in subscription to 403,254 from 365,476.

The revenue increase was also attributed to currency-related adjustments in service rates in view of the peso depreciation and the establishment of direct connections with major foreign administrators that enhanced international toll revenue.

Operating and general expenses on a consolidated basis increased by 43 percent to P2.164 billion from P1.511 billion due to higher provisions for doubtful accounts, higher rental for facilities and higher employee-related expenses and incremental sales and marketing costs.

Digitel generated P1.34 billion in operating income. This was net of the P2.7 million in loss incurred by wholly owned subsidiary DITSI.

The figure was also 10 percent better than the P1.22-billion level in 2000.

Digitel recently established its GSM network to serve over one million subscribers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao although it has yet to launch the cellular phone service. *Elena R. Torrijos*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, April 19, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	72	75	71.5	75	2,128,100
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	5,550
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40	38.5	38.5	347,700
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	30,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41	38	40.5	739,900
Philippine National Bank	56	56.5	56	56	12,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	7,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	19.25	18.5	19.25	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22	22.5	41,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.44	1.46	175,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1385	1385	1385	1385	470
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1085	1080	1085	20,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	34.5	34	34.5	83,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.62	5,160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	810	805	805	40,970
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	480,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	41,000
Piltel	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	505	487.5	490	281,010
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	23,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	29	29	28.5	28.5	56,100
Manila Electric Co. B	48	48	47.5	47.5	1,713,800
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.64	7,926,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.56	1,276,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.9	5,186,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	24,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.1	92,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	291,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	22.25	25	22.25	24.75	1,081,600
RFM Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	624,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	45.5	46.5	145,600
San Miguel Corp. B	57	57.5	56.5	57.5	845,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.6	11,197,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.08	0.11	0.08	0.11	15,300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	1,054,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	30,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	214,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	65,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.66	14,950,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.24	0.26	560,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7	7	6,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	211,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	521,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	350,000
Ionics Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.5	17,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.8	64,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	0.86	1,130,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.76	0.63	0.75	1,290,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,630,000
Music Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,710,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	860,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.56	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	39,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Bella Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	3,680,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	210,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	80,000
Manila Jockey Club	12.5	13	12	13	25,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.32	380,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35	35	34.5	35	163,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	770	770	770	770	100
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.18	1.18	1	1	159,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	10,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	12.75	12.75	18,700
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	3,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	8,992,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	990,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	3,710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.75	22,775,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	250,000
SM Development Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	9,748,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.045	0.046	0.045	0.045	7,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	280,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	21,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	800,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	400,000

CURRENCIES

April 19, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.121831	1.000000	50.9630
Japan	Yen	0.008634	0.007696	0.3922
United Kingdom	Pound	1.625196	1.448700	73.8301
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143838	0.128217	6.5343
Switzerland	Franc	0.681467	0.607460	30.9580
Canada	Dollar	0.712274	0.634921	32.3575
Singapore	Dollar	0.615275	0.548456	27.9510
Australia	Dollar	0.604109	0.538503	27.4437
Bahrain	Dinar	2.975837	2.652661	135.1876
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299155	0.266667	13.5902
Brunei	Dollar	0.612019	0.545554	27.8031
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000107	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.025950	0.023132	1.1789
UAE	Dirham	0.305443	0.272272	13.8758
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000767	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.891400	45.4284
Brazil	Real	0.481265	0.429000	21.8631
Denmark	Kroner	0.134488	0.119883	6.1096
India	Rupee	0.022974	0.020479	1.0437
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.295219	0.263158	13.4113
Mexico	New Peso	0.121621	0.108413	5.5251
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499324	0.445097	22.6835
Norway	Kroner	0.131048	0.116816	5.9533
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018728	0.016694	0.8508
South Africa	Rand	0.101123	0.090141	4.5939
Sweden	Kroner	0.108807	0.096991	4.9430
Syria	Pound	0.025496	0.022727	1.1582
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032200	0.028703	1.4628
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001335	0.001190	0.0606

DISCLOSURES

ASIAN Terminals Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 16, 2 p.m. at the Leyte and Samar Function Rooms of Westin Philippine Plaza. Stockholders of record as of April 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

SECURITY Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 9 a.m. at Security Bank Center's 21/F Auditorium, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 8 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Alsons Cement Corp.** were Tomas Alcantara, Nicasio Alcantara, Margarito Teves, Andres Gatmaitan, Urs Bieri, Alfred Schmid and Jeremy Maycock.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **International Container Terminal Services Inc.** were Enrique Razon Jr., Eduardo Soriano, Ramon Alegre, Jose Ibazeta, Stephen Paradies, Dante Santos, Andres Soriano III and Ernest Cuyegkeng. Elected independent director was Octavio Victor Espiritu. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

RP debt stock rose to P2.427T in January

From page B1

million in new debts raised by the government in January of which $250 million was relent to National Power Corp.

In December 2001, the government also raised $388 million from the Japanese bond market and $117 million from the one-year dollar deposit units of banks to help fund $1.5 billion in foreign requirements this year.

The central bank also tapped $500 million from the European bond market late last year.

The debt stock released by the national government included only the State's local and foreign borrowings and not the external liabilities of the private sector unlike the debt stock statistics released periodically by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The outstanding debt stock in January did not include contingent debts of nearly P500 billion. These are borrowings that the government assumes each time state-run agencies and private sector companies with sovereign-backed loans fail to pay their obligations.

The government borrows from the local and foreign markets yearly to refinance its existing debts and to fund its budget deficit, which is expected to hit P130 billion this year.

The government has to borrow P267.4 billion this year. Of the total, it would use P155.6 billion to service its debts while P111.8 billion would be used to finance a P130-billion budget deficit.

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Global prospects buoyed by US growth–IMF

WASHINGTON—The global economy should bounce back solidly later this year thanks to an upturn in economic prospects in the United States, where the effects of the Sept. 11 attacks have proved mild, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

In the fund's flagship World Economic Outlook, which takes the pulse of the world's economies twice a year, the prognosis was much brighter than last November, when all seemed gloomy and the full effects of Sept. 11 were still unclear.

"There are now increasing signs that the global slowdown, which began in the middle of 2000, has bottomed out," the IMF said. "The events of Sept. 11 had a short-run impact on activity, but, in contrast to the fears that some expressed, have not prevented a recovery in the first half of 2001."

The IMF now forecasts global growth of 2.8 percent this year, up from a 2.4-percent estimate made in November and higher than 2001's 2.5-percent expansion.

If that rebound materialize, the IMF said policymakers should look at increasing interest rates, as had already begun in countries like Canada and New Zealand.

"With respect to monetary policy, this certainly implies over time reversing some of the aggressive monetary policy easing that has taken place," IMF chief economist Kenneth Rogoff told a news briefing.

While there remained risks to the outlook, Rogoff said the global economy was "fundamentally sound," with little chance that a so-called double-dip recession would happen in either the United States or the global economy.

Rogoff said presenting his earlier gloomy forecast had been no fun and that discussing the improved outlook left him in better spirits since he does not subscribe to the old joke that, "Recessions are to an economist what plagues are to a mortician."

The strength of the recovery is best seen in quarterly estimates, which predict activity ramping up to a robust 4 percent annual rate in the final three months of 2002 compared to an anemic 1.5 percent at the tail-end of 2001.

Reuters

Japan slams 'out of focus' IMF report

TOKYO—Japanese ministers reacted with outrage Friday to a grim International Monetary Fund report that said Japan would slide further into recession unless policymakers acted immediately.

"It is out of focus," said State Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Heizo Takenaka of the IMF's twice-yearly World Economic Outlook.

"It does not look like an analysis made by a professional," he said.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa also disagreed with the report, which said Japan needed a supplementary budget this year to drag itself out of recession.

"We'd like to make objections," he said.

"Various comments by the IMF and economists in the world have used expressions which were unexpected to us," said Shiokawa on the eve of two-day talks in Washington of Group of Seven finance ministers and central bankers from the world's richest nations.

In a report released Thursday in Washington, the IMF warned Japan was set for an alarming one-percent economic contraction in 2002, as it slipped deeper into its third and most severe recession of the past decade.

Japanese policymakers, who had failed to clean up debt-ridden banks throughout the past decade, must act now, it said.

"The inability to achieve sustained growth over the past decade reflects the failure to deal decisively with deep structural impediments," the report said.

"This is most urgent in the banking system."

Tokyo also should release a fresh spending program in the second half of this year to throw the economy a lifeline, the IMF recommended.

But Shiokawa said more pump-priming ran contrary to the government's reform agenda, a key aim of which was bringing ballooning public debt under control.

"That idea contradicts the government's commitment to cap bond issuance at 30 trillion yen ($230 billion)," he said.

"Japan's economic fundamentals have not changed significantly, and I believe the economy will rebound because there are some hopeful signs that indicate there will be a sustainable recovery," the 80-year-old minister said.

Critics should wait until Japan worked out its industrial policy outline in June, Shiokawa said, adding he would deliver a strong message of recovery to his G7 partners on Saturday.

Recent reports by the government and Bank of Japan indicate the world's second largest economy is on the verge of a cyclical upturn, powered by a revival in global demand for Japanese exports.

AFP

A JOB seeker makes a note on career advertisements at a job center in Hong Kong. Hong Kong said on Thursday the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 7 percent in the three months to March, the highest level in decades.

REUTERS

Growing US deficit spells trouble for dollar

TOKYO—A widening trade deficit in the United States and slowing demand for its stocks and bonds by big surplus holders in Asia could see the dollar reeling down the road, possibly even to around 100 yen, economists said.

Alarm bells about the United States' huge current account deficit have sounded for years, but currency traders have largely ignored the warnings because the United States has successfully balanced the deficits with foreign capital flows, including direct investment.

But recent data show that such flows, most notably from big surplus nations such as Japan and China, have been dwindling this year, and economists said that could push the dollar's value down significantly in the next few years.

"Capital flows into the United States have been slowing since the beginning of the year and the US' financing can't continue with ease indefinitely," said Masayuki Kichikawa, a senior economist at Asahi Life Asset Management Co.

In February, the trade deficit expanded to $31.51 billion, the highest in nearly a year, and up $3.27 billion from January.

Economists said should the current pace of deficit expansion continue, the current account balance—the broadest measure of international trade—would shoot up to a deficit of $500 billion, or 5 percent of gross domestic product, this year.

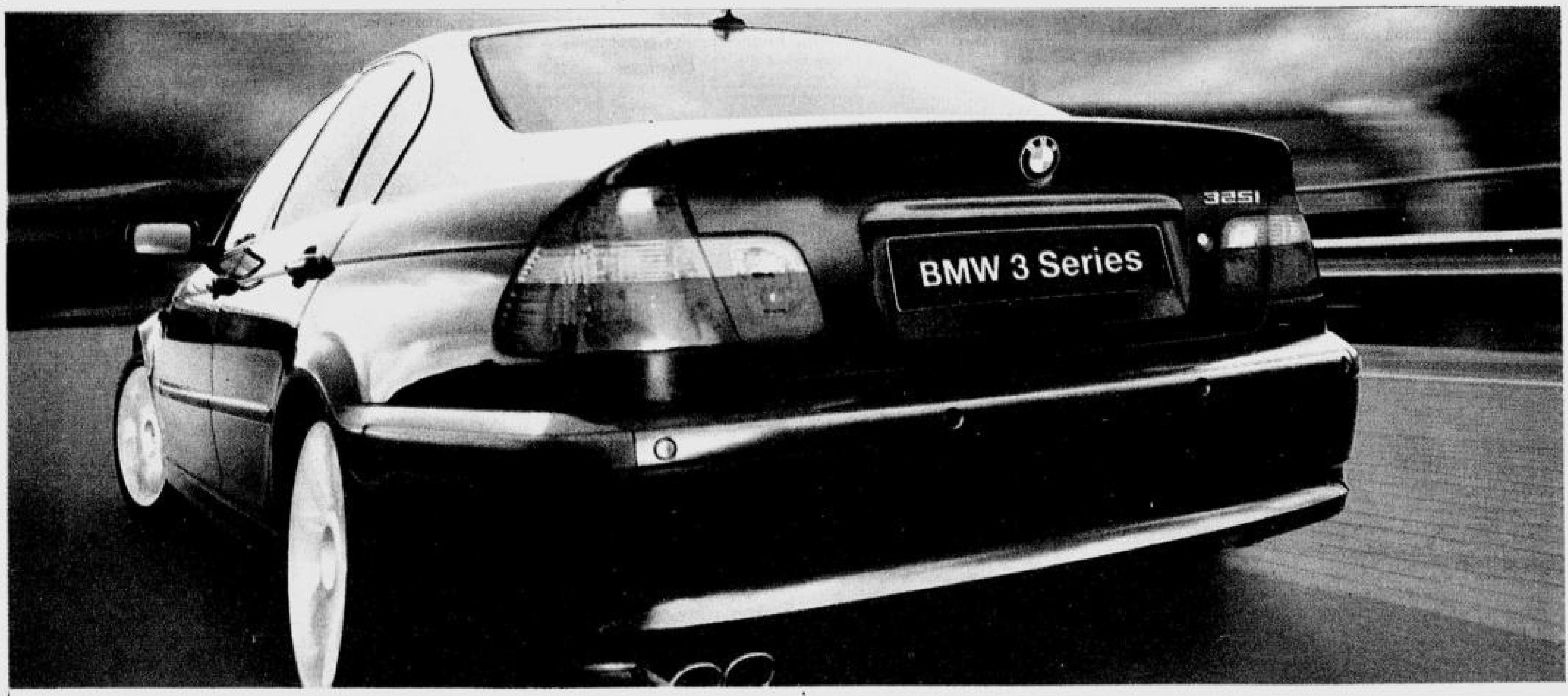
A recent US Federal Reserve study flagged an expansion in the deficit to such levels as a typical point at which the real exchange rate would drop by 10 to 20 percent. That would put the dollar between 104 and 117 yen, using the current rate of 130.

Kazuo Mizuno, chief economist at Kokusai Securities, echoed that view. "Assuming no intervention by central banks, the dollar could fall to the 110-yen level with a deficit worth 5 percent of GDP.

"If it rises to 6 percent, the dollar could slump below 100 yen."

Stephen Roach, Morgan Stanley's chief economist, agrees, saying there has never been an example in history where a "massive external imbalance did not trigger a realignment in relative growth rates and/or a sharp currency depreciation."

Reuters



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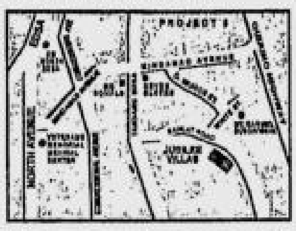

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DAEWOO

DAEWOO GTI M/T 1995 Owner driven Call 731-2901 loc. 205; 741-1206

HONDA

2000 HRV M/T 668T 0917-8309453

MITSUBISHI

96 SpaceWagon 330T 8011415

L300 VV Gas Dual AC 180T neg Call 4547411

Pajero Trooper Patrol Hi Ace Call 9120647 09178342020

NISSAN

'94Safari A/T 588T 0917-8309453

Impld. SAFARI 2Dr 721-1074

TOYOTA

'95 GLI M/T 228T 0917-8309453

Lite-Ace GXL D'sel 721-1074

TOWNACE A/T 238T 9267433

VOLVO

'98 VOLVO A1 Cond Rush! 70Tkm A/T P950T 0917-5303951

VAN/PICK-UP

ASSORTED VEHICLES 4 SALE
VANS 4X4 PICK-UP
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!
LOWEST DP P20T
CALL 6452366 / 6457868
LOOK FOR BELL or OBET

MOTORCYCLE

SUZUKI MOTORCYCLE w/Series SS100 Motor#304091 Color White 899-6234/72

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron 865 Fax (02)850-9018 For Information

★ SALE Genset &4x4 tractors Pison&Loader 3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Call 631-3496 • 637-7396

BNew L3 8533103/09163443087

CAR VANS 410-0495

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333602

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 579-8917(Roger)

MB100 640-2727 • 0918-5036816

Outing Bus Aircon and Non-Aircon 9325160/9329259

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

SPECIAL-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, L300, REVO, Altis, Honda, Lynx, Exalta, Matic, Cars/Vans Pajero ABC-5368822/3039789

Toyco Cars / Vans / Starex / Coaster / Rental 800-6505

BNew Van 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BAKERY EQUIPMENT

Bakery Equipt w/ Bread Stand 8237736; 09163597367

FURNITURE

YAMAHA PIANOS
Grand & Upright T7213124

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

HI SPEED WING MACHINE 5000 to 6000 899-6234/72

HOME APPLIANCE

Ice Shaver Crusher Hamburger Gridle Griller Food Warmer Low High Presure Siopao Steamer Freezer Fryer Hood etc. T-9901170

Ref 12cu WWstnghse 2DR P5000 Tel. 09163627722

Upright Yamaha Piano
P140Th • 642-8310

PETS

CH Shihtzu STUDS/PUP 8298813 8296542

DOG TRAINER 4528681

LABRADOR M/F, Blk & Ylw w/papers & comp. vaccs 929-6439

PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINER
TRAINS DOGS w/COMPETENCE
HOME SERVICE / BOARDING
Tel. 0919-7414590

Protect your lives and properties! Have your dogs trained by the:
Phil. Dog School
Trains dogs scientifically. All trainers are honest, well educated and professionally trained by
Virginia Campos-Gomez
The only K-9 Psychologist in the country today.
For: Security / Guardwork Obedience/House-Breaking. Tel 721-3736 / 0918-7193342

PURE CHINESE SHARPEI MALE / FEMALE 655-1965

SUPERWORM 3646696

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014495/8020566

Cheap Tables 942-3409

Marble Billiard Tables 10,000 •Tel. 820-3445•

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0404 • 834-2806

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7289087

BUY/SELL EDUCATION PLAN G. LOPEZ •7137284•

DEFECTIVE TV/COMPO 7326866

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2086

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

MISCELLANEOUS

Multi-Purpose PC P17T only 9254960; 7800643 Francia

RUSH SALE Manual / Automatic Wheelchairs Call 09178122817 09163130586

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

ENGINEER
For Bldg. Maint pref w/ELECTRO-MECH exp for laundry/kitchen equip Write POBox 38 Grnhills

FEMALE

Female GYM ATTENDANT 18-28 yrs old computer literate speak fluent english call 635-5053 / 54 MIN. WGE

Fitness Instructress (F) Swimming Instructress(F) Domestic Helper(F) 5623962

Wanted: Yaya/ Hse Maids, Intl/Ordinary Cook 6604589

MALE/FEMALE

Ofc Staff 18-45yrs old w/ w/out exp Start ASAP 9134470 Mariel

Agent Free Training High Com 09178160250/2926137

ARCHITECT 2-4yrs exp. Licensed 9289714 9279609

CARE GIVER T5280722

DRIVER
PRETTY SALESLADY
Coll. Grad. #4783 Barasoain, Olympia, Makati 534-9534

ENG STAFF W/EXP IN CABLE WIRING/COMPUTER COLL GRAD IS ADVANTAGE TEL 5243818 / 09179933563

MAY 26 WORKSHOP
FACIAL SKINCARE
8956031 L2011 OR 8971832

★OFC STAFF 9134470 LUCY★

★OFC STAFF 9134470 ALLAN★

★Ofc Staff 9134470 Cunata★

★URGENT OFC STAFF ★
START ASAP 9134470 DANA★

• OFC STAFF 9259574 ZOILA•

SPED/P.T./O.T./S.P.
Telefax 932-3981 resume

WANTED:COMPUTER ARTIST
Send Biodata 43 Visayas Ave. Tandang Sora, Quezon City c/o Kodak Exp Tel 924-8112

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HOUSES TO RENT (fully furnished) IN LOS BANOS LAGUNA preferably inside or around U.P. Campus 3-5 Bedrooms Contact: 0917-537-5449 0917-537-4280 0917-5006184

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop, Inc. #233 Buendia Shopping Plaza Makati City will hold an auction sale on April 27, 2002 at 9:00AM including all items pawned up to November 2001
V.Zamora Jr.
Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

CAP EDUC PLAN
Monet 2528373/09174037776

EARN FROM HOME W/TRAVEL 2477469 09192157588

Aic

We need an on-line teacher and operator. We offer high salary and added benefits for those who qualify.

Qualifications:

- must speak the English language fluently
- between 18 to 30 years of age
- good looking

Submit your resumé with picture personally at:

**3/F MEDECOR Bldg.,
Ortigas Ave., Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila**
or call us at: **(632) 721-6445**
Cell: 0916-370-8285
Email: peterenglish@hotmail.com

HIGH SCHOOL and ELEMENTARY SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

- ➢ At least 5 years experience as school supervisor
- ➢ Has good moral character
- ➢ At least with Master's degree in Education

Please submit resumé with one 2x2 photo to:

**SUPERVISOR
P.O. BOX 1026
Manila**

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MRS. FRANCISCA "FRANZ" ANITO

Please be informed that the person, whose name and picture appears above, is no longer connected with **FERD ENTERPRISES (Authorized Distributor of Grolier International, Inc.)** effective April 11, 2002. Any transaction or representation made by **Mrs. Francisca Anito** for and on behalf of the company after that date will no longer be honored.

(PDI–Apr. 20, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•Travel N Earn From Home•
earn-and-travel.com
8531008 (0917)8101051

Earn From Home w/ Travel
295-2107 • 0917-8135609

Mall/Bazaar Spaces
633-9295/633-9662/638-9608

FOR SALE QUICKLY FRANCHISE RIGHTS ONLY 0917-5343580 / 8434220

Infants Kids Wear 3738821

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. TRAINING, RAW MAT'LS. AVAIL. 2554643 2554644 2553584

Work fr Home w/ Travel 8376060

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **CATALINA DEGOHERMANO** was extrajudicially settled to Oscar Conizal Jr. per Doc 57, Page 30, Book III, S-2001 before Atty. Roseller Rodriguez, Capas, Tarlac.
(PDI-April 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

**Notice is hereby given that an estate of the late MARCIAL DE GUZMAN has been extra-judicially settled by way of an affidavit of self-adjudication executed by his sole heir Margarita de Guzman on 04/03/02 per Doc No. 500, Page No. 100, Book No. 11 Series 2002 of Notary Public Atty Renator V. Peralta of Marikina City.
(PDI-April 13, 20&27,2002)**

NOTICE OF LOSS

**This is to inform the Public that Passport No EE705706 issued to FRANCISCO D. DEBULOS JR with reentry Visa was lost April 16, 2002 at the LTO QC.
(PDI- 4/20, 27 & 5/4,2002)**

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

SALES PERSON
m/f, w/exp in wholesaling of food prods., Coll. grad., computer literate. Attractive salary + comm.

OFC MGR/CONTROLLER
Acctg grad, w/ 3 yrs exp., computer literate. Auditing exp. a plus.

CALL 5518822

COME AND JOIN US!!! As we elevate your career to the top!
We are a joint-venture with Mitsubishi of Japan, no. 1 in our industry and an ISO-9001 certified company.
We have vacancies for:

MAINTENANCE CONSULTANT

The candidate must be male and a graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.
He must have about 15 to 20 years experience in the maintenance of elevators and escalators.
He must have an optional knowledge on the procedure for regular maintenance, trouble-shooting and repair/servicing of elevators and escalators.
He must be able to speak, write and understand Japanese language.
The hired candidate can expect a competitive compensation package and a stable career.
Interested parties should apply with credentials and photo personally or by mail post-marked not later than April 26, 2002 to:

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc
Km. 21.5 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Cupang, Muntinlupa City
(Between Sucat and Alabang Interchanges, near Alabang Hills Village)
Tel. No. 842-3161 to 64; Fax No. 842-3160, 809-3708

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : **Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant**

Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services for the complete rehabilitation/improvement of existing sewage treatment plant to include but not limited to civil, mechanical, electrical and architectural works all in accordance with the approved drawings, technical specifications, methodologies/facilities and equipment specifications of BSP. Work includes start-up and commissioning of the rehabilitated sewage plant.

Project Location : BSP - Security Plant Complex in East Avenue, Quezon City

Approved Budget : Pesos Five Million Seven Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Two (P5,735,132.00)

Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Minimum Requirement (Criteria)

PCAB License/IAC Classification : IAC Category at least Medium (Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Disposal Plant)

Contractor's Construction Experience : Has satisfactorily completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) construction rehabilitation of sewage treatment plant projects one of which costs not less than Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P5,500,000.00). Must have performed testing, commissioning and operation of sewage treatment plant that passes the effluent quality standard of DENR Adm. Order No. 35.

Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement : Pesos Five Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Pesos (P573,000.00)

Prequalification Statement Forms

Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)

Date and Time of Issuance : April 12 to 26, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement/Documents : PBAC Secretariat Rm. 204 (Tel. No. 524-7011 to loc. 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (formerly V. Cruz) Streets, Manila

Deadline of Submission : May 2, 2002, 10:00 AM

Notice of Prequalification/Predisqualification

Date and Time of Issuance : May 9, 2002; 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat, Rm. 204

Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents

Cost of Documents/ : Three Thousand Pesos per set (P3,000.00/set)

Place of Issue : PBAC Secretariat, Rm. 204

Date and Time of Issuance : May 10, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pre-bid Conference

Date and Time : May 21, 2002; 10:00 AM

Venue : BMD Conference Room, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex

Submission and Opening of Bids

Deadline/Venue of Submission : June 10, 2002; 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule of issuance of notice of prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guideline stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO, JR.
Chairman

(PDI–April 13, 20 & 25, 2002)

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

The Social Security System is offering for sale the following Real Estate Properties:

Units	Asset Description	Location	Area (SQM)	BR	Parking Slot	Selling Price
OFFICE CONDOMINIUM						
	Globe Telecom Plaza 614	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	110.75	N.A.	1	5,520,050.00
	Globe Telecom Plaza 617	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	123.15	N.A.	1	5,970,170.00
	Globe Telecom Plaza C19	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	108.65	N.A.	1	5,076,610.00
	Pioneer Corporate Center 711	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	112.65	N.A.	1	5,239,630.00
	Pioneer Corporate Center 806	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	102.46	N.A.	1	4,805,328.00
	Pryce Center 503	Chino Roces, Makati City	107.94	N.A.	1	4,901,908.00
	Pryce Center 501	Chino Roces, Makati City	110.10	N.A.	1	4,989,616.50
	Pryce Center 502	Chino Roces, Makati City	73.31	N.A.	1	3,492,467.00
	Pryce Center 503	Chino Roces, Makati City	107.94	N.A.	1	4,901,908.00
	Pryce Center 504	Chino Roces, Makati City	123.88	N.A.	1	5,549,852.00
	Pryce Center 505	Chino Roces, Makati City	89.26	N.A.	1	4,141,632.00
	Pryce Center 506	Chino Roces, Makati City	92.13	N.A.	1	4,258,441.00
	Pryce Center 507	Chino Roces, Makati City	121.15	N.A.	1	5,439,351.50
	Pryce Center 1001	Chino Roces, Makati City	110.10	N.A.	1	4,989,616.50
	Pryce Center 1002	Chino Roces, Makati City	73.31	N.A.	1	3,492,467.00
	Pryce Center 1003	Chino Roces, Makati City	107.94	N.A.	1	4,901,908.00
	Pryce Center 1004	Chino Roces, Makati City	123.88	N.A.	1	5,549,852.00
	Pryce Center 1005	Chino Roces, Makati City	89.26	N.A.	1	4,141,632.00
	Pryce Center 1006	Chino Roces, Makati City	92.13	N.A.	1	4,258,441.00
	Pryce Center 1007	Chino Roces, Makati City	121.15	N.A.	1	5,439,351.50
	Pryce Center 1101	Chino Roces, Makati City	110.10	N.A.	1	4,989,616.50
	Pryce Center 1102	Chino Roces, Makati City	73.31	N.A.	1	3,492,467.00
	Pryce Center 1103	Chino Roces, Makati City	107.94	N.A.	1	4,901,908.00
	Pryce Center 1104	Chino Roces, Makati City	123.88	N.A.	1	5,549,852.00
	Pryce Center 1105	Chino Roces, Makati City	89.26	N.A.	1	4,141,632.00
	Pryce Center 1106	Chino Roces, Makati City	92.13	N.A.	1	4,258,441.00
	Pryce Center 1107	Chino Roces, Makati City	121.15	N.A.	1	5,439,351.50
RESIDENTIAL UNITS						
	Bayview Tower I PH 5	Roxas Blvd., Parañaque City	285.00	4	2	13,299,000.00
	Bayview Tower I PH 6	Roxas Blvd., Parañaque City	285.00	4	2	13,299,000.00
	Bella Villa A100	Merville, Parañaque City	134.00	3	2	6,174,900.00
	Bella Villa A204	Merville, Parañaque City	139.00	3	1	5,778,650.00
	Bella Villa A205	Merville, Parañaque City	134.00	3	2	6,174,900.00
	Bella Villa A208	Merville, Parañaque City	158.00	3	2	7,071,300.00
	Bella Villa A305	Merville, Parañaque City	134.00	3	2	6,174,900.00
	Bella Villa A306	Merville, Parañaque City	134.00	3	2	6,174,900.00
	Bella Villa A308	Merville, Parañaque City	158.00	3	2	7,071,300.00
	Bella Villa A405	Merville, Parañaque City	134.00	3	2	6,174,900.00
	Bella Villa A406	Merville, Parañaque City	134.00	3	2	6,174,900.00
	Bella Villa A408	Merville, Parañaque City	158.00	3	2	7,071,300.00
	Bella Villa B106	Merville, Parañaque City	174.26	3	2	7,678,611.00
	Bella Villa B108	Merville, Parañaque City	195.85	3	2	8,494,997.50
	Bella Villa B301	Merville, Parañaque City	203.89	2	2	8,785,291.50
	Bella Villa B302	Merville, Parañaque City	203.89	2	2	8,785,291.50
	Bella Villa B303	Merville, Parañaque City	187.54	2	2	8,174,619.00
	Bella Villa B305	Merville, Parañaque City	223.47	3	2	9,516,604.50
	Bella Villa B306	Merville, Parañaque City	223.47	3	2	9,516,604.50
	Bella Villa B708	Merville, Parañaque City	222.67	3	2	9,486,724.50
	Bella Villa C101	Merville, Parañaque City	160.75	2	1	8,215,512.50
	Bella Villa C105	Merville, Parañaque City	174.26	3	2	7,678,611.00
	Bella Villa C106	Merville, Parañaque City	174.26	3	2	7,678,611.00
	Bella Villa C302	Merville, Parañaque City	203.89	2	2	8,785,291.50
	Bella Villa C305	Merville, Parañaque City	223.47	3	2	9,516,604.50
	Bella Villa C306	Merville, Parañaque City	223.47	3	2	9,516,604.50
	Renaissance Tower F 2904	Ortigas Center, Pasig City	384.66	4	2	17,574,414.00
	West Tower 0502	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	97.96	2	1	4,262,710.00
	West Tower 0504	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	73.46	1	1	3,309,460.00
	West Tower 0511	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	97.91	2	1	4,250,765.00
	West Tower 0603	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	74.36	1	1	3,344,110.00
	West Tower 0604	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	73.46	1	1	3,309,460.00
	West Tower 0606	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	73.46	1	1	3,309,460.00
	West Tower 0803	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	74.36	1	1	3,344,110.00
	West Tower 0810	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	70.25	1	1	3,185,875.00
	West Tower 0903	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	74.36	1	1	3,344,110.00
	West Tower 0904	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	73.46	1	1	3,309,460.00
	West Tower 0910	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	70.25	1	1	3,185,875.00
	West Tower 1104	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	73.46	1	1	3,309,460.00
	West Tower 1110	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	70.25	1	1	3,185,875.00
	West Tower 1210	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	70.25	1	1	3,185,875.00
	West Tower 1609	SSH, Bancal, Makati City	73.46	1	1	3,309,460.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 2508	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	117.53	3	1	5,435,204.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3207	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	133.45	3	1	6,100,710.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3307	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	133.45	3	1	6,100,710.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3401	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	141.20	3	1	6,424,660.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3407	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	133.45	3	1	6,100,710.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3504	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	94.84	2	1	4,486,812.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3506	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	103.34	2	1	4,842,112.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3507	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	133.45	3	1	6,100,710.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3601	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	141.20	3	1	6,424,660.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3604	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	94.84	2	1	4,486,812.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3607	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	133.45	3	1	6,100,710.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3701	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	141.20	3	1	6,424,660.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3704	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	94.84	2	1	4,486,812.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3706	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	103.34	2	1	4,842,112.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3801	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	141.20	3	1	6,424,660.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3804	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	94.84	2	1	4,486,812.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 3906	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	103.34	2	1	4,842,112.00
	Pioneer Madison Suites 4001	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	157.28	3	1	7,096,904.00
	Pioneer East Tower 1213	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	52.50	1	1	2,719,506.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 909	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	122.90	3	1	5,659,720.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2011	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2211	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2306	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	122.90	3	1	5,659,720.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2311	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2411	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2508	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	122.90	3	1	5,659,720.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2511	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2611	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2709	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	122.90	3	1	5,659,720.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2811	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 2911	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3009	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3109	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3409	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	134.83	3	1	6,158,394.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3601	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	226.85	3	1	10,004,830.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3701	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	226.85	3	1	10,004,830.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3704	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	200.27	3	1	8,893,760.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3801	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	384.16	4	1	16,561,224.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3802	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	340.84	3+DEN	1	14,769,812.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3803	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	340.16	3+DEN.	1	14,741,188.00
	Pioneer West Highlands 3804	Pioneer, Mandaluyong City	436.56	3	1	18,770,708.00

Indicated selling prices are on cash basis and are subject to change without prior notice. Attractive installment package are also available.

For further inquiries, contact Engr. BALTAZAR C. CAJILIG, Officer-in-Charge, Asset Management Department, 5th Floor SSS Bldg., East Ave., Quezon City or may call Tel. Nos. 435-98-75 or 435-08-77.

REAL ESTATE BROKERS ARE WELCOME.

(Sgd.) VP GAMELIN Z. OCZON
Officer-in-Charge, Investments

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

Makati Avenue, Makati City

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a Public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on May 06, 2002 at Rm 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City

PROP NO.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO.	AREA LOT / FLR.	MINIMUM BID
	HOUSE AND LOT			
1	Blk 21 Lot 17 Carissa Homes North 1A Bo. Sto. Cristo SJDM, Bulacan	T-27225 (M)	35.00 / 20.62	177,902.21
2	Blk 03 Lot 25 Carissa Homes North 4c Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-363765 (M)	55.00 / 20.00	238,273.42
3	Blk 01 Lot 04 Carissa Homes North 5C Bo. Sto Cristo SJDM, Bulacan	T-35287 P(M)	55.00 / 20.00	243,089.81
4	Blk 23 Lot 40 Carissa Homes North 6 Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-385805 (M)	45.00 / 20.00	194,043.56
5	Blk 01 Lot 08 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980409	35.00 / 20.62	180,105.73
6	Blk 02 Lot 09 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980397	35.00 / 20.62	190,450.00
7	Blk 06 Lot 22 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-944537	22.00 / 20.62	263,274.50
8	Blk 06 Lot 17 Ph3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980412	35.00 / 20.62	174,259.87
9	Blk 08 Lot 20 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980404	53.50 / 20.62	234,006.43
10	Blk 08 Lot 26 Ph2 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980395	35.00 / 20.62	174,859.87
11	Blk 08 Lot 28 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980393	35.00 / 20.62	174,259.87
12	Blk 11 Lot 34 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953376	35.00 / 20.62	177,452.29
13	Blk 135 Lot 39 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953823	33.00 / 18.03	194,175.56
14	Blk 15 Lot 05 PH2 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980410	35.00 / 20.62	191,150.00
15	Blk 15 Lot 20 PH5 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980400	61.00 / 20.62	247,223.78
16	Blk 16 Lot 02 PH3A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980403	55.50 / 20.62	243,328.98
17	Blk 23 Lot 06 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980396	35.00 / 20.62	185,032.24
18	Blk 20 Lot 26 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980401	54.00 / 20.62	231,083.78
19	Blk 29 Lot 02 PH3B Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980399	79.00 / 20.62	293,083.78
20	Blk 30 Lot 04 PH2 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980408	35.00 / 20.62	177,167.62
21	Blk 34 Lot 10 PH3B Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980398	54.00 / 20.62	234,987.74
22	Blk 34 Lot 16 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980402	58.50 / 20.62	242,243.78
23	Blk 34 Lot 27 PH4 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980411	35.00 / 20.62	173,559.87
24	Blk 44 Lot 08 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953377	42.00 / 20.62	207,499.05
25	Blk 46 Lot 04 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980794	35.00 / 20.62	175,309.87
26	Blk 47 Lot 06 PH3 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980407	35.00 / 20.62	174,259.87
27	Blk 60 Lot 03 PH1A Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-953378	35.00 / 20.62	177,405.79
28	Blk 62 Lot 06 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980406	33.00 / 18.03	185,056.06
29	Blk 70 Lot 21 PH7 Carissa Homes Tanza Bo. Baglas, Tanza, Cavite	T-980405	33.60 / 18.03	198,230.24
30	Blk 01B Lot 19 La Poblacion 3A Parada, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	T-347629	50.00 / 29.00	246,751.71
31	Blk 10 Lot 04 La Poblacion 3B Bo. Parada, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	T-363763 (M)	64.00 / 29.00	271,311.05
32	Blk 09 Lot 01 La Poblacion 1C Bo. Parada, Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	T-385604 (M)	38.00 / 25.00	193,729.30
33	Blk 72 Lot 17 CH La Trinidad 3 Bo. Quintana, Trece Martires City	T-62954	70.00 / 25.00	369,175.00
34	Blk 06 Lot 37 Northridge Bo. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-363764 (M)	44.00 / 38.00	270,444.06
35	Blk 07 Lot 18 Northwinds City 3B Bo. Sto. Cristo, SJDM, Bulacan	T-385806 (M)	79.00 / 25.00	337,793.33
36	Blk 07 Lot 12 Parklane Country Homes Ph I Bo. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite	T-706116	36.00 / 22.00	232,580.00
37	Blk 04 Lot 15 San Marino Heights(SMH2) Bo. Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-884348	98.00 / 25.00	464,492.40
38	Blk 14 Lot 85 San Marino South 2 Bo. Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953380	50.00 / 25.00	303,250.00
39	Blk 02 Lot 33 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953822	42.00 / 35.97	294,670.20
40	Blk 02 Lot 34 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953810	65.00 / 35.97	364,245.30
41	Blk 02 Lot 57 Solar Townhomes Dasmarinas Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953820	42.00 / 35.97	294,670.20
42	Blk 03 Lot 15 Solar Townhomes Bo. Poblacion, Dasmarinas, Cavite	T-953821	65.00 / 35.97	357,485.00
43	Blk 01 Lot 16 Solar Urban Townhomes North Bo. Bagumbong, Caloocan City	C-353390	66.00 / 36.00	362,064.00
44	Blk 32 Lot 18 Southern Heights1 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	T-478289	36.00 / 21.96	189,760.43
45	Blk 34 Lot 09 Southern Heights 1 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	T-478288	36.50 / 21.96	196,080.41
46	Blk 48 Lot 12 Southern Heights 1 Bo. San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna	T-478254	36.00 / 21.96	189,316.28
47	Blk 15 Lot 05 Willow Bend Bo. Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	T-363767 (M)	37.00 / 18.00	194,306.40
48	Blk 53 Lot 06 Willow Bend Bo. Pinagkuartelan, Pandi, Bulacan	T-363766 (M)	37.00 / 18.03	193,676.35
	LOT ONLY			
49	Lot 8-C-14-A-4-J Medalva Hills Subd., Ph 111 Bo. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628586	205.00	357,725.00
50	Blk 01 Lot 04 Medalva Hills Subd. Bo. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628842	150.00	261,750.00
51	Blk 01 Lot 06 Medalva Hills Subd. PH 111 Angono, Rizal	627984	150.00	261,750.00
52	Blk 01 Lot 07 Medalva Hills Subd., Angono, Rizal	627916	135.00	235,575.00
53	Blk 01 Lot 08 Medalva Hills Subd., PH 111 San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648435	135.00	235,575.00
54	Blk 01 Lot 21 PH 11 Medalva Hills Subd., San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648431	150.00	261,750.00
55	Blk 02 Lot 12 PH 111-A Medalva Hills Subd. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648437	110.00	191,950.00
56	Blk 05 Lot 04 Medalva Hills Subd. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	627983	150.00	261,750.00
57	Blk 07 Lot 05 Medalva Hills Subd., PH 111 San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	628840	160.00	279,200.00
58	Blk 07 Lot 29A PHI, Medalva Hills Subd. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648434	90.00	157,050.00
59	Blk 07 Lot 30B PH. I, Medalva Hills Subd., San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	648432	90.00	157,050.00
60	Blk 09 Lot 23 Medalva Hills Subd., PH II San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	626387	140.00	244,300.00
61	Blk 12 Lot 30 Medalva Hills Subd., PH II San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	626385	150.00	261,750.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested Parties are required to secure copies of : (a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the office of the Manager, Acquired Asset Management, Rm 602, 6th Flr. Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City.
2. Sealed proposals in triplicate shall be received at the Office of the Manager, Acquired Asset Management, Rm 602, 6th Flr., Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting 8:00 A.M NOT LATER THAN 2:00 P.M on May 06, 2002 immediately afterwhich, the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.
3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT IN CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER's / MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) in an amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid price.
4. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the HDMF.
5. All bidders are advised to visit/inspect the properties for bidding before posting their bid proposals
6. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she bidded during and after the bidding, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.
7. ALL AWARDS BY THE BIDDING COMMITTEE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES / PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER / VP FUND MANAGEMENT GROUP

HDMF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY THEREIN OR ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTEGEOUS TO THE FUND. THE DECISION OF THE FUND IS FINAL AND BINDING.

ACQUIRED ASSET MGNT. (Tel.# 810-21-26; 811-44-01 local 317; 848-82-05)

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Accre cert# 69391

FEMALE IC OPERATORS

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- Backend: Marking/DTFS/SP/SD/FVI/Test/QA/QC

with **NO IC Experience**

- College Graduate
- At least 5'1" in Height
- 20-30 years old

Employer's Final Interview on APRIL 21 & 22, 2002

Pls. Submit application form on or before April 21,2002 at:
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423 Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila
E-Mail: jscon@csi.com.ph• Website: www.jscontractor.com.ph

BRING TWO SETS (photocopies) OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH THE ORIGINAL COPIES FOR VERIFICATION

1. Bio-data w/detailed job description
2. Employment Certificate(s) / Co. I.D.
3. 6 pcs 2x2 B/W photographs
4. Diploma
5. Passport & NBI, if available
6. 3 pcs self address-stamp envelopes

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COOPERATION
Bldg. No. 31st Floor, San-Lazaro Compound,
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Telefax Nos. 711-9582;
Tel. No. 781-8843, 743-8301 local 1310, 1311, 1304
e-mail address: bihc@doh.gov.ph; website; omega.doh.gov.ph/bihc

April 16, 2002

NOTICE

The Department of Health under the Early Childhood Development Project-Department of Health (ECDP-DOH) Component is in need of the following consultants (individual) to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the Project's Food Fortification sub-component:

1. Nutrition Specialist (1)
2. Legislation and Law Enforcement Consultant (1)
3. Business and Food and Nutrition Situation Analyst (1)
4. Communication and Advocacy Consultant

Prospective applicants must have at least five years experience in Food and Nutrition related undertakings. Interested individuals may get a copy of the Terms of Reference from the Early Childhood Development Project Office, Department of Health, G/F Building 3, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Letters of interest with curriculum vitaé and salary history must be submitted on or before **April 26, 2002** to the undersigned at the address below:

Unified Project-Management Office
Bureau of International Health Cooperation
Department of Health
G/F Building 3, San Lazaro Compound
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila

Should there be further inquiries, you may contact Ms. Sharon Andrea C. Lumpias, at Telephone No. **(632) 338-6516, 743-8301 local 1343.**

(Sgd.) **MA. VIRGINIA GUZMAN-ALA, MD, MPH**
Manager, UPMD

(PDI - April 20 & 21, 2002)

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"...I Am The Way, The Truth and The Light Nobody Goes to the Father Except by Me"
(John 14:6)

Atty. Oscar Coloso Benedicto, Sr.

January 31, 1918 - April 11, 2002
Of Bacolod City; Imus, Cavite; and Torrance, California, USA

Former Deputy Director, NBI, Western Visayas
Former Legal Attaché, Embassy of the Philippines, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC
USAFFE WWII Veteran, Bataan Death Marcher

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord at the Torrance Memorial Medical Center, California, USA

Loving Husband of

Eloisa Villasor Villanueva

Beloved father of
Oscar Jr. (Hitler) †
Rene Antonio (Rommel) and **Lena Atilano**
Zafiro Ma. (Judol) and **Malu del Rosario**
Earl Patrick (Ted)
Marianne Alexandra (Michiko) and **Melville Cortes**
Eric Jude and **Cheryl McCool**

Devoted grandfather of:
Tisha, Pauline and **Miguel Benedicto**
Eugene, Kate and **Byron Benedicto**
Jacqueline and **Dominic Cortes**
Brian, Samantha and **Victoria Benedicto**

Great grandfather of **Noelle Angelica Benedicto**

brother of:
Gilberto, Trining, Lourdes B. Gimeno and **Anita B. Moreno**

His remains lie in state at the Greenhills Mortuary and Memorial Chapel, Rancho Palos Verdes, California.
His body will be flown to Manila on Thursday, April 18, 2002 via Philippine Airlines.

For funeral arrangement, please call the **Villanueva-Benedicto** residence (046) 434-7586, Imus, Cavite.

Heraclio Tantoco Reyes

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 17, 2002 at the age of 90.

His dearest wife **Herminia**; children **Hilda** and **Joey Antonio**, **Hector** and **Verne Cuyugan**, **Herry** and **Fe Agoncillo**, **Helen** and **Jimmy Silva**; grandchildren **Jigger, Marco, Robbie** and **Carlo Antonio**; **Shinee, Koolee** and **Kaki Reyes**; **Jamila, Anela** and **Gerrick Reyes**, **Erica** and **Sandro Silva**; brothers and sisters **Godofredo**(+), **Felicula**(+), **Tirso**(+), **Conrado**(+), **Ismael**(+), **Leonor**, **Adolfo**(+), **Leopoldo**, **Epifanio**(+) and **Benjamin**(+); in-laws, nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the San Antonio Church, Capilla de la Virgen, Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2002 at Loyola Park, Parañaque after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 9:00 am.

"God saw you getting tired,
when a cure was not to be.
So He wrapped His Arms around you,
and whispered "Come to Me."
You didn't deserve what you went through
So He gave you rest."

Our Beloved Mama

Josefina Torcuator-Tan

Joined our Creator on April 18, 2002 at the age of 71.

With her beloved husband **Maximo Tan**

Her children
Baby & Carlos, Lita & Jacinto, Neneng & Marlito, Elvis, Lorna & Eugene, Gigi & Robert, Montes & Bibot, Juan & Mercy

Grandchildren and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, (Chapel G), Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2002 at 12 noon at Loyola Memorial Crematory, Guadalupe, Makati City.

In Loving Memory
of the First Death Anniversary of

REMEDIOS ADRIANO DEL ROSARIO

Died on April 21, 2001 (U.S. Time)
Interred at Madonna Mausoleum at Fort Lee, N.J., U.S.A.

Holy Masses will be offered on April 21, 2002

5:00 AM	St. James the Apostles, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
6:00 AM	San Isidro Labrador, Pulilan, Bulacan
6:00 AM	Santiago Apostol, Plaridel, Bulacan
8:00 PM	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Quezon City
12:30 PM	Montebello Parish, California, U.S.A.
12:00 NN	St. Francis of Atonement, New Jersey, U.S.A.
12:00 NN	Ephifany Church, New Jersey, U.S.A.

April 21 & 22, 2002

6:00 AM	Our Lady of the Assumption, Maragondon, Cavite
6:00 AM	Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Malabon City
6:00 AM	San Bartolome Parish, Malabon City
6:00 AM	Nstra Sra Del Perpetua, Socorro, Calamba Street, Manila
6:00 PM	Our Lady of Remedies, Malate, Manila
6:00 PM	St. Alphonsus De Liguori, Magallanes, Makati City
6:00 PM	Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kanlaon, Quezon City

Please say a prayer for eternal repose of her soul.

GUILLERMO L. SALGADO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 18, 2002

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome Church, Alabang Town Center.

Cremations will be tomorrow (April 21, 2002), 2:00 P.M. at Manila Memorial Park Crematorium.

Luz Laluan Castaño

Of Pozorubio, Pangasinan

Has joined our Creator on April 18, 2002 at the age of 64.

Her bereaved husband **Manuel**; children **Manuel Jr. & Melinda**, and **Riza & Josel Garcia**; together with her grandchildren **Camille, Chase, Julius, Charisse, Colleen** and **Gabrielle**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Family Residence, 92 Batakil, Pozorubio, Pangasinan.

Interment was sent temporarily on Tuesday, April 23, 2002 at the Pozorubio Cemetery.

"You will forever be in our hearts"

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

MEDARDO S. CASTILLO

Peacefully joined our Creator on April 17, 2002 at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Soledad**; children **Chit & Deric, Bob & Lei** and **Nonoy**; grandchildren **Lewis** and **Clarissa**, brothers and sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2002, 10:00 A.M. at Tiaong, Quezon.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
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743-6505 • **743-6508** • Fax No.: **712-2782**

101 years

MA. CARMEN CALIOLIO-OMOTE

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 14, 2002 in California, USA.

Her remains were cremated on April 19, 2002.

Her family request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Always caring...

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014

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Tels 712-5102, 741-5125; 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064

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219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247

PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City
Tel (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tels. 895-1011 to 19

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 99; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783; (0919) 348-7131

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868

POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. 433-7132

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila. Tels. 749-3579; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9266/67

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3787, 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4838

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438; 400-5394

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : April 16, 2002

The SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following items for its expansion projects funded by the government subsidy:

Item No.	Quantity	Description
1.	365 pcs	Various sizes of Treated Distribution Wood Poles
2.	258 pcs	Treated Anchor Logs, 4 Feet
3.	30 pcs	Treated Distribution Crossarm, Wood, 8 Feet

All above items must conform with NEA 7.62/13.2 KV Line Construction Specifications

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and obtain bidding documents upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must submit/meet the following requirement to be eligible for the bidding:

1. Company profile;
2. List of clients;

For purposes of clarification and to discuss the details of the item due for bidding, a pre-bid conference will be held on **April 23, 2002** at 2:00 PM at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 2:00 PM on **April 30, 2002** accompanied by bidders bond in cash or cashier's check in the amount equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or the bidder's authorized representative at the address above at 2:00 PM on **April 30, 2002.**

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO B. PICZON JR.**
Board President

(PDI--April 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

FIRST (1ST) INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF ROLL-UP/SUN SCREENS

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive supply, delivery and installation experience in roll-up/sun screens (around 8,000 sq.m.) for office buildings are invited to apply for pre-qualification for the bidding of the Bank's roll-up/sun screen, requirements for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification after		Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
April 22-23, 2002 @ 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	April 23, 2002 @ 3:00 p.m.	a. Evaluation of Pre-qualifications Documents & Brochures	May 08, 2002	May 16, 2002	May 17, 2002 @ 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.	May 21, 2002 @ 10:00 a.m.	May 24, 2002 @ 10:00 a.m.
		b. Evaluation of mock-ups versus Brochures	May 15, 2002				

All Interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 24th flr.,Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given one (1) day to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than **April 26, 2002, 3:00PM**, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held at the Facilities Management and General Services Group (FMGSG) Conference Room, 24th Floor, Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on **May 24, 2002** (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 24th Floor Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – April 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

National Power Corporation

Small Power Utilities Group
Dillman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of Waste Oil & Used Drums
"as is, where is"
Date of Bid Opening : May 3, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
WASTE OIL (Bunker) at Calapan DPP, Calapan, Mindoro	P1.22/Liter
DRUMS, Used at PB120, Balanacan Pier, Mogpog, Marinduque	P614.25/pc
WASTE OIL (Bunker), One (1) Year Accumulation of PB120, Balanacan Pier, Mogpog, Marinduque	P1.22/Liter
WASTE OIL (Bunker), One (1) Year Accumulation of PB106 Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa	P1.22/Liter

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 2:00 PM at NPC-SPUG Office, 2/F Training Center Bldg., NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2000) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P.F. VICTORIA at the above address or call tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) **R.C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--April 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF REBIDDING AND INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Renovation and Extension of the Bangko Sentral Cotabato Branch (Phase 2)
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all testing and other operations necessary for the construction and completion of the project all in accordance with the requirements of the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location : BSP-Cotabato Branch Sinsuat corner Quezon Avenue, Cotabato City
Approved Budget : Pesos Twenty Million Five Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred Two and 20/100 (P 20,507,202.20)
Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License / IAC Classification : IAC Category at least Medium (Building and Industrial Plant) for the past three (3) consecutive years
Contractor's Construction Experience : Has satisfactorily completed in the past three (3) years at least three (3) construction / renovation projects of similar Architectural and Engineering (A & E) works one of which costs not less than Ten Million Five Hundred Pesos (10,500,000.00) such as construction / renovation involving architectural (including finishing, plumbing, mechanical and electrical works of commercial or institutional buildings requiring medium to high end finishes and good workmanship (projects may include offices, commercial centers, educational institutions, hotels and other of similar or greater complexity to the BSP's required project).
Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Req't. : Pesos Two Million Fifty Thousand (P 2,050,000.00)
Prequalification Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P 200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : Apr. 12 to 28, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement / Documents : PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 loc 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission : May 2, 2002 10:00 AM
Notice of Prequalification / Predisqualification
Date and Time of Issuance : May 09, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Bid / Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents / Place of Issuance : Five Thousand Pesos per set (P 5,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance : May 10, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : May 20, 2002 10:00 AM
Venue : BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline/Venue of Submission : June 10, 2002 / 9:00 am to 10:00 am / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule for issuance of notice for prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Contractors that are previously declared/considered prequalified to bid for this project are automatically considered qualified to join the rebidding and are only required to submit a letter of intent if interested to join.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO, JR.
Chairman

(PDI--April 13, 20 & 25, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS

Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad

(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

SLT-2002-05A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING : MAY 08, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	TIRE (195R14, 8 PLY), CANVASS COVER	3OPO02-011
A2	500 PCS	CLAMP, GUY	3ATL02-016
A3	8 PCS	HEAT AND SMOKE DETECTORS	3NCS01-121
A4	24 PAIRS	BOOTS, RUBBER	3CSA02-041
		DATE OF BIDDING : MAY 09, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	44 PAILS	PAINT, HIGH PERFORMANCE	3A3002-034
B2	60 PCS	STATION BATTERY	3QUE02-099
B3	40 PCS	ENERGY METERS, MULTI-FUNCTION	PSMD-N-02-030
		DATE OF BIDDING : MAY 10, 2002; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	SUPPLY OF LABOR, SUPERVISION, SPARE PARTS & CONSUMABLES FOR THE OPERATION/ MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF ACU SYSTEM OF TGPP, PLANTS A, B & C	3TIW02-034
C2	1 LOT	OIL PURIFIER ASSY, VERTICAL SHAFT/ WORK GEAR	3MAK02-182
C3	100 GALS	HYDRAULIC OIL FOR 230 KV PCB	3MAK02-194

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

1) B2 - May 29, 2002; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
2) B3 - May 29, 2002; 11:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
3) C1 - May 29, 2002; 01:00 pm at SLRO Bidding Room

Schedules C1-C3 bidding shall be handled by GENCO-6 Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **April 23, 2002.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **May 03, 2002** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's / Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R.D. RAMAS**
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI--April 20, 2002)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

MAKE IT PHILIPPINES

NOTICE TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Pre-qualification Bids and Awards Committee on Information Technology Resources (PBAC-ITR), this Department, invites prospective bidders to pre-qualify and bid for the Department of Trade and Industry requirements, for the purchase of the following:

1. Computers and peripherals
2. Notebook
3. Projector
4. Scanner

Pre-qualification forms can be secured from Celso R. Aguilar, Secretary, DTI-PBAC-ITR, General Services Division, Ground Floor Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila.

Pre-bidding Conference will be held on 24 April 2002 at 1:00 PM, MIS Conference Room, 5th Floor, DTI Bldg., 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

(Sgd.) **JESUS L. MOTOOMULL**
Chairman, DTI-PBAC-ITR

(PDI--April 20 & 21, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

INVITATION TO BID

The Social Security System is inviting offers to purchase by way of Sealed bids the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	MINIMUM BID
1	240 sq.m. TCT No. 46206 with 3 BR 2 T&B Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot 4, Blk 8 #71 Capital View Subd. Poro San Fernando City, La Union	P589,200.00
2	211.30 sq.m. TCT No. 46212 with 2 BR 1 T&B Fairly maintained Bungalow	Lot 1-A, St. Francis Homes California Ave., San Francisco San Fernando City, La Union	P329,400.00
3	335 sq.m. TCT No. 41962 with 2 BR 1 T&B Fairly maintained Bungalow	Lot 1-000578 Bolobol Oasis, Balaoan, La Union	P134,800.00
4	180 sq.m. TCT No. 46211 with 2BR 1 T&B Poorly maintained Bungalow	Lot 2-A-2-C-1-C Bacsil Norte, Bauang, La Union	P369,200.00
5	125 sq.m. TCT No. 46210 Lot only	Lot 2-A-2-C-3-A-2 Bacsil Norte, Bauang, La Union.	P167,500.00
6	7,369 sq.m. TCT No. 27302 and 27303, Dilapidated Hospital	Lot 1-A & 1-B Suso, Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur	P2,061,400.00
7	155 sq.m. TCT No. 46209 with 3 BR 1 T&B Poorly maintained Bungalow	Lot 1 Blk 3 Beach Homes III, Lingsat, San Fernando City, La Union	P398,100.00
8	169 sq.m. TCT No. 40170 with 2 BR, 1 T&B Poorly maintained Bungalow	Lot 4 Blk 1 Hilltop Subd., Yagyagan, Sablan, Benguet	P210,600.00
9	202 sq.m. TCT No. 302143 Lot Only	Lot No. 10, Blk 10 Valley Homes, Patul, Santiago City, Isabela	P338,400.00
10	180 sq.m. TCT No. 117043 2 BR 1 T&B Bungalow Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot 13 Blk 4, Guaranteed Home Bascaran, Solano, Nueva Viscaya	P57,600.00
11	194 sq.m. TCT No. 45687 2 BR 1 T&B Bungalow Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot 3 Blk 1, Hilltop Subd. Yagyagan, Sablan, Benguet	P259,000.00
12	240 sq.m. TCT No. 302142 2 BR 1 T&B Bungalow Fairly Maintained	Lot 17 Blk 1, Santiago Hts., Patul, Santiago City Isabela	P252,100.00
13	706 sq.m. TCT No. 281265 Lot only	Lot 4-D-2-2-P Mariz Cmpd., Pranza Cauayan, Isabela	P494,200.00
14	240 sq.m. TCT No. 302140 Lot only	Lot 17 Blk 4, Santiago Hts., Patul, Santiago City, Isabela	P156,000.00
15	239 sq.m. TCT No. 302141 Lot only	Lot 20, Blk 4, Santiago Hts., Patul Santiago City, Isabela	P153,350.00
16	204 sq.m. TCT No. 46872 2 BR 1 T&B Bungalow Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot 3, Blk 3 Pico La Trinidad, Benguet	P331,000.00
17	240 sq.m. TCT No. 312907 2 BR 1 T&B Bungalow Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot 18 Blk 1, Santiago Hts., Patul Santiago City Isabela	P196,800.00
18	1,265 sq.m. TCT No. 312911 4 BR 1 T&B Fairly maintained Bungalow	Lot 8, Cumu Angadanan, Isabela	P233,500.00
19	420 sq.m. TCT No. 312910 Lot only	Lot 1-G, Centro Cauayan, Isabela	P126,000.00
20	248 sq.m. TCT No. 312908 2 BR 1 T&B Bungalow Deteriorating Bungalow	Lot 2, Blk 6, Santiago Hts. Patul, Santiago City Isabela	P207,400.00
21	240 sq.m. TCT No. 312909 2 BR 1 T&B Bungalow Fairly Maintained Bungalow	Lot 22, Blk 6, Santiago Hts. Patul, Santiago City Isabela	P199,400.00
22	250 sq.m. TCT No. 307026 Dilapidated Bungalow	Lot 4-A-2 San Fermin Cauayan, Isabela	P312,500.00

Complete description/specification of the properties including Bidding forms and Instruction to Bidders are available at the Loans Division, SSS Baguio Branch, located at SSS Bldg., Harrison Road, Baguio City. Please contact Mr. LUIS V. OLAIS -- Cluster Head, North Luzon at Telephone Nos. 443-3089, 442-8073, 444-4882, 444-8615.

Sealed bids should be dropped at the bid box located at the Administrative Division, SSS Baguio Branch, from 8:00 AM to 1:59 PM on May 14, 2002. The bids should be labeled Acquired Assets Disposal Committee, Social Security System, Baguio Branch, Baguio City.

Bidder's deposit, equivalent to at least 10% of the bid price in cash (Philippine money/U.S. Dollar) or in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check in favor of SSS must be enclosed with the sealed bid. (Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable). The bidder must also sign the sealed envelope across its flap. Sealed bid without the bidder's bond will not be entertained.

The Award shall be granted to the highest bidder.

The sale of the properties shall be "As Is, Where Is" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of the SSS.

After deducting the bid deposit from the Bid Price, the balance shall be payable in cash within 30 days or an option to amortize within 12 months at 13% rate of interest per annum compounded monthly upon receipt of notice of approval.

The system reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein.

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the Social Security Commission whose decision shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(Sgd.) **AVP ANTONETTE L. FERNANDEZ**
Vice-Chairperson
Acquired Assets Disposal Committee

(PDI--April 20, 2002)

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

2nd Flr. MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Rd. Balara, Q.C.
Telefax Nos. 926-5233, 926-5234

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation for qualification and Bid is issued.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission as the Executing Agency and the City Government of Mandaluyong as the Implementing Agency are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following linear park packages.

Contract Package	Contract No.	Area	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description
a. Barangay Buayang Bato Linear Park (Package A)	EPA LPP-05	1,900.00 sq.m.	Barangay Buayang Bato Mandaluyong City	90 Calendar days	Linear Park and Promenade
b. Barangay Vergara Linear Park (Package B)	EPA-LPP-06	2,194.00 sq.m.	Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong City	90 Calendar Days	Linear Park and Promenade
c. Barangay Mabini J. Rizal Linear Park (Package C)	EPA LPP-07	1,558.49 sq.m.	Barangay, Mabini J. Rizal, Mandaluyong City	90 Calendar Days	Linear Park and Promenade

The works consist of three (3) separate contract packages. Bidders may bid for any one, two or all three contract packages ranked according to their preference, but award will be limited to two per bidder.

A bidder, who is already evaluated as an awardee in one (1) contract package, can only be awarded the subsequent package if his remaining financial bid capacity is equal or greater than his bid for the package, and if his bid is the lowest complying bid.

If a bidder has been evaluated as an awardee for two (2) packages, his bid for the subsequent package shall be returned unopened.

In the event that the lowest bidder is not qualified for the award due to insufficient financial bid capacity, the contract package shall be awarded to the next lowest complying bidder, at the cost of the next lowest complying bidder.

Interested contractors will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box, which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation, and the list of qualified contractors has been finalized. Only the bids of qualified contractors will be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of disqualified contractors will be returned unopened.

Interested contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC)
2nd Floor Engineering Building
MWSS CMPD., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos: 433-3444/433-3446/926-5233/926-5234

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be purchased by interested contractors from the above address on 25, 29 & 30 April 2002 and 2-3 May 2002 upon submission of a letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00) per contract package.

Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on 10 May 2002, 10 a.m. at the Conference Room, PRRC office. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to the PRRC on or before 1200 hours on 10 June 2002. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

(PDI--April 20, 21 & 22, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all suppliers and computer service providers for the bidding of various office equipments, software development and local area network (LAN).

All interested suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **April 17, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at http://www.decs.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **April 25, 2002, 10:00 AM** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **May 9, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, Bids & Award Committee

(PDI--April 14 & 20, 2002)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ◎ Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

WEST NILE VIRUS

Not too deadly for people to panic

By Charles E. Buban

HEALTH authorities in Ormoc City went on alert after a strange illness struck 12 children early this week.

The victims—all belonging to the prominent Larrazabal clan—had high fever, sore eyes and sore throat. While most of them recovered from the illness and were later discharged, one boy went into coma after suffering from convulsions and a severely inflamed brain.

Initial suspicions were that the West Nile virus or other flavivirus organisms might have afflicted the children. This group of virus is known to cause meningoencephalitis, or inflammation of the spinal cord and brain.

The Department of Health has already sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta some blood and spinal fluid samples taken from one of the victims.

If test results show that the illness was indeed caused by the West Nile virus, this will be the first time the country will be dealing with a flavivirus commonly found in Africa, West Asia and the Middle East. The West Nile virus is closely related to St. Louis encephalitis virus found in the United States.

As of 2001, the CDC had monitored 149 confirmed human cases of the West Nile virus, including 18 fatalities.

In the United States, the virus made headlines two years ago when 14 New York City residents—one of whom later died—and six others in New Jersey were hospitalized due to West Nile virus infection.

Roots

The West Nile virus was first isolated from a female adult in the West Nile District of Uganda in 1937. The virus became recognized as a cause of severe human meningoencephalitis in elderly patients during an outbreak in Israel in 1957. Equine disease was first noted in Egypt and France in the early 1960s.

A West Nile virus infection is potentially lethal because it can cause severe inflammation of the brain and spinal cord. However, most infections are mild, and symptoms include fever, headache and body aches, and occasionally, skin rashes and swollen lymph glands.

A more severe infection may be marked by headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and, rarely, death.

Among those with severe illness due to the West Nile virus, case-fatality rates range from 3 percent to 15 percent and are highest among the elderly. Less than one percent of those infected with West Nile virus will develop severe illness.

Transmission

The virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes, particularly the Culex mosquitoes.

These mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which may circulate the virus in their blood for a few days. Infected mosquitoes can then transmit the virus to humans and animals.

Although infected mosquitoes are the primary source, ticks infected with the virus have also been found in Asia and Africa. Their role in the transmission and maintenance of the virus is still uncertain.

A vast majority of infections have been identified in birds, but the virus has been shown to infect horses, cats, bats, chipmunks, skunks, squirrels and domestic rabbits.

Birds bitten by infected mosquitoes harbor the virus for a few days, passing it on to mosquitoes that bite them during that time. These mosquitoes then bite other animals and humans, which are a dead-end in the virus cycle.

CDC doctors stress that the virus is not contagious. It is not transmitted from person-to-person.

And even if an infected mosquito bites, that person will not necessarily catch the virus, they say. In fact, in areas where mosquitoes do carry the virus, very few mosquitoes—less than one percent—are infected.

It takes between three and 15 days from the time of infection before the West Nile encephalitis manifests in humans. At present, there is no specific therapy in treating West Nile encephalitis.

In more severe cases, intensive supportive therapy is required, often involving hospitalization, intravenous fluids, airway management, respiratory support (ventilator), prevention of secondary infections (pneumonia, urinary tract, etc.) and good nursing care.

A vaccine is available for horses but this cannot be used on humans.

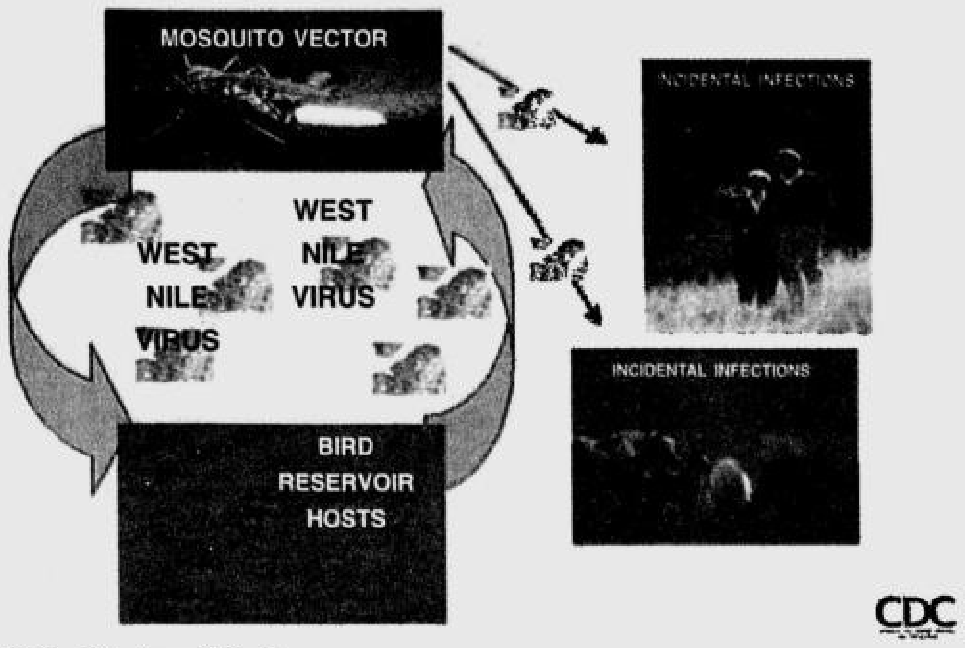
Prevention

Avoiding mosquito bites is the only known prevention for the disease and public health officials advise people to wear insect repellant.

One important behavior of Culex mosquitoes, according to a handout of the Cornell University Center for the Environment, is that they breed in dirty polluted water such as ponds, pools, ditches, puddles, drains and rice fields. So make sure you check your backyards for these breeding grounds.

Culex mosquitoes bite between dawn and dusk (between 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m.) and it is advisable to stay indoors during these times.

WEST NILE VIRUS TRANSMISSION CYCLE



4 prenatal visits for safe motherhood

By Tessa R. Salazar

ONE prenatal visit is not enough to assure a healthy pregnancy and a healthy child. According to the Department of Health a pregnant woman must have at least four prenatal checkups.

Yet statistics show that of about 95 percent of women (or 4.5 million women) who received prenatal care during their pregnancy, only 65.3 percent had four or more prenatal visits.

The 2001 Maternal and Child Health Survey of the National Statistics Office revealed that of those who received prenatal care, 96.2 percent were living in urban areas.

And Dr. Nerissa Dominguez of the DOH Center for Family and Environmental Health said the survey included women who might have had only one prenatal visit.

"Mothers don't continue their prenatal visits. There is a big attrition rate. Most mothers get lost in the continuation of the whole consultation and checkup program," Dominguez said.

The survey showed that more women consulted midwives for prenatal care. About 63 percent of women who received prenatal care during their last pregnancy had consulted midwives.

Doctors placed second, *hilots* or traditional birth attendants ranked third and nurses, fourth.

The priority for postnatal care providers, however, shifted. Women commonly consulted doctors first, midwives second and *hilots* third. Nurses remained as the fourth choice.

Important supplements

A healthy pregnancy and having healthy and intelligent babies are also assured when mothers take iron and iodine supplements.

The 2001 NSO survey revealed an increasing number of pregnant women receiving iodine capsules and iron tablets. In 1997, 74 percent of pregnant women took iron tablets and 51 percent took iodine capsules. The figure increased in 2001 to 81 percent for iron and 64.4 percent for iodine.

DOH data showed that a quarter of pregnant women in the country suffered from iodine deficiency, which increased the risk of abortion, stillbirth, miscarriage and infant deaths. Iodine-deficient mothers could also give birth to babies with underactive thyroids, and these babies could suffer from retarded mental and physical development.

The NSO survey also revealed that more than half of pregnant women, or 56 percent, received tetanus toxoid, which protected their babies from neonatal tetanus.

Healthy children

The NSO survey showed that three in four children received Vitamin A capsules during the past six months preceding the survey. Six in 10 were given iodine capsules and more than five in 10 received iron drops.

But the number of fully immunized children aged 12 to 23 months old decreased by about 4 percent—61 percent were immunized in 2001 compared to 65 percent in 2000.

Dominguez said the shortage in vaccine supplies might have contributed to the decline in immunization rate.

Metro Manila had the most number of fully immunized children, while the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had the least number.

CLINIC
JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Circumcision reduces cervical cancer risk

BOSTON—Women who have sex with circumcised men have lower rates of cervical cancer, and the men themselves are less likely to develop genital warts, a study on three continents suggests.

The study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that men with intact foreskins were three times more likely than circumcised men to be infected with the human papillomavirus. That, in turn, may increase the risk of passing the virus on to their sex partners.

The theory is that the skin in the inner lining of the foreskin is especially vulnerable to the virus.

"It will certainly fuel the ongoing debate about the merits of circumcision," said Dr. Michael Thun, an American Cancer Society epidemiologist. He said it raises the question of whether circumcision can reduce the spread of AIDS, too.

Studies dating back to 1988 have suggested that circumcision offers some protection against AIDS, but the research does not prove it and more definitive studies are under way.

Philippines included

The cervical cancer study, conducted by researchers in the Philippines, Spain, Brazil, Colombia and Thailand looked at nearly 3,800 women, half of whom had cervical cancer, half of whom were cancer-free.

Researchers were based in Amsterdam, Barcelona and Costa Rica.

There was only a slight overall difference between the two groups in how many had circumcised partners and how many had uncircumcised ones.

Active sex partners

But the researchers found a strong difference in the risk of cervical cancer when it came to women whose partners were especially active sexually. Women whose high-risk partners were not circumcised were five times more likely to get cancer than those whose partners were circumcised.

High-risk men were defined as those who had at least six sex partners and started having sex before 17.

One of the researchers, Dr. Xavier Castellsague of the Catalan Institute for Oncology in Barcelona said it would not make sense to promote circumcision as a way to control cervical cancer in developed countries where Pap smears usually detect it at a treatable stage.

However, he said, circumcision could make a big difference in developing countries where there is no regular screening for cervical cancer.

Reports from Reuters, AP

Working may raise risk of pregnancy complication

LONDON—Working during pregnancy may increase a woman's risk of developing dangerously high blood pressure that can endanger the lives of the mother and child, researchers said on Thursday.

A study of nearly 1,000 pregnant women by doctors at the University College Cork in Ireland showed that those who worked were almost five times more likely to develop pre-eclampsia.

"We found that maternal work was significantly associated with the subsequent development of pre-eclampsia," Prof. John Higgins, who led the study, said in a report in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health.

Pre-eclampsia occurs in about 5 percent of pregnant women and is marked by high blood pressure, fluid retention and protein in the urine.

It can cause kidney and liver problems in the mother and slow growth of the fetus.

The researchers monitored the blood pressure of all of the women, who were in their late 20s and between 18 and 24 weeks pregnant with their first child.

Nearly 250 were working during their pregnancy, 289 did not work and 399 were employed but took time off. The working women had the highest blood pressure of the three groups and the greatest risk of pre-eclampsia.

"Women in the working group were almost five times more likely to develop pre-eclampsia than those not working," Higgins, a gynecologist, added.

Obesity, diabetes and a family history of the illness are others factors that can increase the risk of pre-eclampsia.

Higgins and his team suspect working can increase the levels of stress hormones which can raise blood pressure levels.

Reuters

Knowing your medicine can save your life

TODAY people are taking more over-the-counter and prescription drugs alone and in combination than ever before.

The use of prescription drugs is expected to increase again this year. But consumers' lack of understanding or knowledge of the drug they're taking is raising concerns in the medical community. Experts say what you know in terms of even the most basic information, such as correct dosage and interactions with other drugs and foods you consume, could save your life.

According to recent medical studies, only 50 percent of all patients take medications as directed. The same report found that most people taking prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicine, especially the elderly and those in lower-income groups, have trouble reading and understanding basic healthcare information.

In the Philippines alone, extensive information campaigns on medicines and health matters are a continuing challenge to health professionals, government agencies and private organizations. These health experts agree that the more you know about the medicines you're taking and the more you communicate with your healthcare professionals, the better your chances are of getting well and avoiding problems with your health.

The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association through its "PHAP Cares Program" offers some helpful reminders in caring for your medicines. For example, before leaving your doctor's office, it would be well to ask some of these questions about the medicines you've just been prescribed.

- What is the name of the drug and what will it do?
- How often should I take it, and how long should I take it? (A common misconception is that people stop medication once symptoms are relieved.)
- When should I take the medicine? If I forget to take it, what should I do?
- What side effects might I expect?

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, herbal supplements, vitamins, creams and ointments. Your doctor will also want to know about all of your food and medication allergies.

Crushing, chewing or breaking pills could make your medication unsafe or ineffective. If you have difficulty swallowing pills, ask your doctor or pharmacist for other types of medication.

After a visit to the doctor, patients are generally assured that they have the best of care, yet sometimes their conditions do not improve. "PHAP Cares" says that applying these treatments through proper management of one's health at home is a step further to getting well. Here are a few more important reminders:

- If you are taking a lot of medicines, it is advisable to keep a daily journal of all the drugs you are taking, including the name of the doctor who prescribed it, the amount you take and the times of day you take it.
- Take your medicine in the exact prescribed amount—not more or less—on the schedule set by your doctor.
- If you have any unexplained symptoms after taking your medication, call your doctor so he can evaluate and explain your condition.
- Check the expiration dates on your medicine bottles, and flush any expired medicines down the toilet. Some drugs actually become toxic after the expiration date.
- Avoid fake medicines. Be sure to buy your medicines only from reputable drugstores. (You may consult a pharmacist for further questions about the drug you are buying.)

Lastly, "PHAP Cares" advises that a dose of understanding and familiarizing yourself with your medicine goes a long way in avoiding health problems.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

WISDOM TEETH
Unnecessary spare molars

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MANY young people look forward with great anticipation to the growth of their wisdom teeth. Small wonder, because the older generation used to say that when the wisdom teeth come out, then a child truly becomes an adult.

Research, however, shows that having wisdom teeth is not so wise after all because these are usually impacted or trapped in the jawbone and gums, thus, causing great pain and damage to other molars.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, oral surgeon Steve Mark Gan, DMD, said wisdom teeth, or the third molars, usually come out between the ages of 17 and 21. There are four wisdom teeth—two on the upper side of the mouth and two below.

Some are fortunate to have their wisdom teeth grow in the right position, but there are more people who are not so lucky.

"Usually wisdom teeth do not grow in the right position, which can cause a lot of problems. I would advice those whose third molars have not erupted after 21 years old to have a full mouth X-ray to see if there are problems," Gan says.

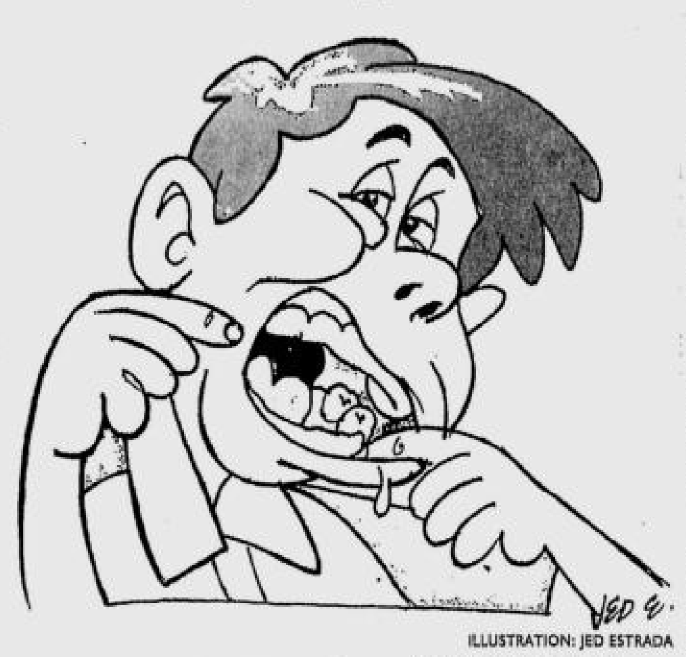


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Extraction advised

Common problems include gum infection (when a wisdom tooth partially breaks through the gum's surface and bacteria accumulate in the gum area), crowding (when an impacted tooth pushes adjacent teeth), decay and, in extreme cases, cysts and lesions.

"Preferably, wisdom teeth should be extracted as early as possible, even if they have not yet fully erupted, to minimize problems. You do not really need them because they are extra molars. We really need only 28 teeth," Gan explains.

Like all teeth, wisdom teeth develop inside an opening in the jaw, protected by bone and gum tissue. Over time, the teeth become more firmly anchored as the roots lengthen and the jawbone becomes denser. So it is better to remove it as early as possible.

A partially or completely erupted wisdom tooth may be extracted with forceps. With an impacted tooth, an incision is made in the gum to reach it. If the tooth is lodged in the jawbone, bone tissue covering the tooth may have to be removed.

Dentists are qualified to remove wisdom teeth, although it may be better to go to an oral surgeon for more complicated cases.

Suggestions from readers

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MAIL has been piling up as usual, but some readers have been making my job a lot easier. This is one column I particularly like, since readers are helping others. Also, most of the resources are on the Net, so sit beside your computer and follow the links below.

Butch Arias [butch.sps@digitelone.com], a grade school teacher in Lucena City, gives suggestions to EJB Pacheco (Feb. 23, 2002) on constructing a pentagon with straight edge and compass:

I used to teach college and high school, and I am a consultant in computer systems. Regarding the pentagon, we may use Euclid's Proposition 11 in Elements Book IV. Please refer to http://aleph0.clarku.edu/~djoyce/java/elements/bookIV/propIV11.html

For a step-by-step pentagon construction, go to http://www.zef-damen.myseb.nl/Constructions/pentagon/pentagon_en.htm

We can also use the golden ratio:

http://www.cut-the-knot.com/pythagoras/pentagon.html

I remember having them in trigonometry in senior high school and technical drawing.

Ramon Santos [ramon626@hotmail.com] writes about anagrams (Feb. 23, 2002):

I thought I had cooked up original anagrams while I was in NY during the Bush-Gore campaign, but I read it recently in one of my e-mails. I cannot copyright them, but here they are: GEORGE BUSH = HE BUGS GORE. And this one really drives them wild: PRESIDENT CLINTON OF THE USA = TO COPULATE HE FINDS INTERNS.

Lherz [tamayo@sdt.univ-brest.fr] discusses liquid hydrogen power (Dec. 1, 2001):

Your reader Mike might be interested in an article by Brad Lemley which came out in the November 2001 issue of Discover Magazine (Vol. 22, No. 11) See www.discover.com. The article discusses the pros and cons of hydrogen as an alternative power source and power generation. It is written in a language, which is palatable to those who abhor the sight of equations.

Miguel Paraz [map@internet.org.ph] shares an article on science education (Aug. 18. 2001):

Your science history article is great, *parang* Ambeth Ocampo. I'd like to refer you to a science education article by Jaime del Rosario, country head of Accenture. The article is part of a series on "How we can be an IT global powerhouse like India":

www.itnetcentral.com/computerworld/article.asp?id =5054&leveli=123&info=Compu

R. E. Hickman, Sr. [focusing1 @yahoo.com] invites those interested in science analogies to visit his sites:

http://profiles.yahoo.com/focusing1

http://www.geocities.com/focusing1

http://www.engineers-international.com/company/2774.html

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mad_Scientist

http://www.arctrax.com/ARCTRAX/gravity.html

On behalf of most readers, thank you for the suggestions above. Keep them coming!

* * *

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. Contact her at blessbook @yahoo.com.)

Oldest hospital now world class

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN Franciscan lay brother Fray Juan Clemente established the San Juan de Dios Hospital in 1578, Spain was still establishing its foothold in the Philippines. By the time the country had declared independence from its European colonizer, the medical institution was already 320 years old.

The hospital's original home was located inside Intramuros. But when it was completely ruined during the liberation of Manila, it transferred to its present location at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Edsa.

As it celebrates its 424th foundation this year, San Juan de Dios marks another milestone, becoming the first charity hospital in the country to receive an ISO 9001:2000 accreditation.

World class

"Being principally a charity hospital should not hamper us from becoming a world-class medical institution. Our patients should feel that, whether they are paying or not, they are being taken cared of by a hospital that is at par with the best," said medical director Dr. Mirla Severino.

The hospital is run by the San Juan de Dios Educational Foundation Inc., a nonprofit foundation that receives most of its financial backing from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office as well as friends here and abroad.

The hospital is under the administration of the Daughters of Charity.

"We are here not only to treat people and develop our personnel, but also to build a basic ecclesiastical community in a hospital setting. Although charity is the heart and soul of the hospital, we want our people to respond effectively and properly to our patients who need to be spiritually prepared," said VP for health services Sr. Salome Alipio.

This is one reason San Juan de Dios Hospital is also providing pastoral care for their patient and their family.

Being a tertiary hospital, San Juan de Dios offers all the general services plus subspecialty of the different clinical departments like medicine, OB-Gyne, surgery and pediatrics.

Unique

Right now, the hospital is complemented by more than 200 medical staff most of them fellows. "The uniqueness of this hospital is that they cannot buy their clinics here, one enters with his or her qualifications that is constantly reviewed by our credentials committee," explained Rodolfo Jagonap, the hospital's HRD director.

Among the services recently added to the hospital is the outpatient chemotherapy on its oncology unit. It cuts down the cost on cancer therapy since patients can now treat their cancer without needing to be hospitalized. "We did realize that cancer is fast becoming our focus so that's why we are beefing up our oncology unit in terms of staff and equipment," explained Jun Acullador.

The corporate affairs director also revealed the hospital's other projects like the ongoing construction of a 5-story charity outpatient development building and very soon a 10-story expansion building. "We are indeed for the long term."

Imiquimod enhances body's immune response

IMIQUINOD (Aldara) is the first of a series of Immune Response Modifiers (IRM) that is changing the way the medical profession views treatment strategies, said Dr. Stephen Peter Shumack, head of Dermatology, St. George Hospital, University of South Wales, at a symposium hosted by 3M Pharmaceuticals.

Traditional medicines work by destroying the disease- causing elements. Imiquimod stimulates the body's own immune system. Thus, it is the body itself that wards off disease and infection.

This makes Imiquimod an effective and versatile drug. Although Imiquimod (Aldara) is approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs only for the treatment of genital and perianal warts, doctors have found out that it can also treat other dermatological disorders like hand and plantar warts, keloids and alopecia.

In a US study on keloids in 12 patients, Dr. Brian Berman cut out the keloids surgically, then applied Imiquimod for eight weeks. Normally, over a half of keloids excised surgically would recur.

With the application of Imiquimod, none of the keloids recurred in this small series of patients. There have also been anecdotal reports of Imiquimod having successfully induced hair regrowth in patients with alopecia, said Dr. Shumack.

Dr. Shumack is particularly interested in the potential use of Imiquimod in the treatment of skin cancer in transplant patients.

He concluded by saying that the off-label indications are just the tip of the iceberg. In the future, we may find other uses for Imiquimod and other immune response modifiers of its kind.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Fixed bridge or not?

MY dentist told me I should consider having a permanent bridge to replace my dentures. He said this is what show-biz personalities do and they get to have nice teeth. What are the benefits and disadvantages of getting a permanent bridge?

Bess

The advantage of having a fixed denture is that you treat it like the rest of your natural teeth. When you chew, it feels like you have your own teeth again. The only difference is that when you floss, you would need a floss threader to clean your fixed bridge. The floss threader guides the floss underneath the connected crowns.

Unfortunately, a fixed bridge is not for everybody. There is a "two teeth will care one" rule. This means you need two supporting teeth for every missing tooth. If you are missing too many teeth, a removable denture is for you. I have seen so many fixed bridges that fail because this rule is disregarded. The supporting teeth start to move because the biting force is too strong to carry so many floating teeth.

This is a technique-sensitive procedure. So it is a very careful collaboration between the lab and the dentist.

(The author is a cosmetic and general dentist licensed here and in the US. E-mail your questions to dentalqs@yahoo.com)

MEDICAL FILES

The case of the 'Beautiful Mind'

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

"A BEAUTIFUL MIND," the Oscar's winner for Best Picture this year, features the life of John Nash, a math genius who was once a Nobel Prize winner. However, what is more significant about this movie is that, through Nash's struggles with his mind, the world was made more aware of the life-altering and frequently misunderstood disease, schizophrenia.

Dexter, a 47-year-old father of two, has been facing this same struggle with the disease for almost 20 years now. At age 27, he held an important position in an accounting firm. Dexter was a good provider for the family. However, right after his second son was born, his wife Mely started to notice peculiar changes in Dexter's personality and behavior.

Dexter suddenly became excessively jealous and suspicious. He accused her of spending too much time at work and neglecting their children. Sometimes, he even accused her of having an affair with an officemate. To put an end to all of Dexter's suspicions, Mely decided to resign from her job.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Changing behavior

For a while, things seemed better. Dexter became less suspicious of his wife, although his behavior swung like a pendulum. Nice and caring one day, paranoid and thoughtless the next day. Soon, serious problems started to develop at work. He quarreled both with his superiors and subordinates for the slightest reasons. He avoided them although they did not mind because Dexter was not really the most pleasant person to be with. Good riddance, everyone thought.

His wife got more worried when he started to show flights of ideas when talked to. He responded differently and shifted from one topic to another that was sometimes remote to the one discussed.

His boss too started to become concerned of Dexter's irritating antisocial behavior and increasing inefficiency in his work. When he discussed this concern with him, he even accused his boss of planning to kill him. This was the last straw and Dexter was fired right there and then.

At first, his wife found it hard to understand what happened. Friends and relatives thought that Dexter was hooked on some drugs. But she was quite certain he was not into any drugs. Sleepless and agitated, Dexter was finally convinced to be brought to a psychiatrist who diagnosed him to have schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia was the reason for Dexter's paranoia and deranged behavior. It is a commonly misunderstood disease. Although drugs may trigger or aggravate it, not all schizophrenics are drug-crazed.

Symptoms

At any given time, about one to 2 percent of the world's population is afflicted with schizophrenia. It is the single most destructive disease to young people, ruining what would have been bright futures in intelligent young men and women. There is no gender predisposition to the disease. Most males become ill between 16 and 25 years old; females develop symptoms between ages 25 and 30.

The first signs of the disease include difficulty in concentrating and sleeping. Afterward, afflicted individuals may start avoiding their friends. In the next stage, many schizophrenics, like Dexter, begin to speak incoherently and see or hear things that no one else does.

As the disease takes firm hold of one's mind, there are cycles of recovery or remission followed by frightening relapses marked by disordered thinking, incoherence, hallucinations, paranoia and delusions. Schizophrenics may be convinced that people are spying on them, conspiring against them or even wanting to kill them. They may also inflict harm on other people and themselves leading to senseless suicides.

Disabling illness

Schizophrenia is a disabling major mental illness, which may be relapsing or recurrent. In contrast from how "normal" individuals view the world from their own logical perspective, schizophrenic patients have their own weird perceptions of reality. In fact, they may be completely out of touch with reality and believe their fantasies, hallucinations and delusions as reality.

Some authors divide the symptoms of schizophrenia into two categories. Positive symptoms are the psychological disturbances "added" because of the disorder. Hallucination and disorganized thinking are examples of these. Negative symptoms, on the other hand, are psychological capabilities the patient has "lost" due to the disease. Examples of these are loss of the capacity to relate with others, failing initiative and interest in life in general, and unintelligible speech.

Some patients progressively isolate themselves from their family and friends. They live in their own delusional world, shutting off every one else. For a while, Dexter did just that. He was cooped up in his room especially if there were visitors in the house. He preferred to hide in his isolated and very private mental cocoon.

Cause still unknown

The exact cause of schizophrenia is still unknown. Scientists believe that there is no known single cause of schizophrenia. Their hypothesis i that certain genetic factors cause a vulnerability t schizophrenia, with environmental factors contributing to different degrees in different individuals

Substantial research has also determined tha schizophrenia is a biochemical brain disorder The most recent advances in brain imaging have confirmed imbalances of two brain chemicals—dopamine and serotonin—in those who suffe from schizophrenia. Dopamine is responsible fo emotions and motivation while serotonin acts a a messenger and stimulates muscle movement switching nerves on and off. The brains of people with schizophrenia have elevated dopamine and serotonin activity.

This finding is currently the basis for the treatment of schizophrenia. Antipsychotic drug regulate the levels of dopamine and serotonin in the brain improving the clinical outlook of patients with schizophrenia. Many effective antipsychotic drugs are now available, which significantly reduce schizophrenic symptoms. They however, do not ensure that there will be no further psychotic episodes.

What are needed

Since schizophrenia is a mental and emotional disease, what a schizophrenic needs—more than medications—are psychosocia therapy and support. This involves rehabilitation and individual or group psychotherapy. The goal of psychosocial therapy is to help the patients to overcome the psychological, social and occupational problems caused by their schizophrenia. The therapy emphasizes social and vocational training to help patients and forme patients overcome difficulties in these areas.

More than this, however, Dexter's doctor told Mely that the family plays a big role in the management of his psychiatric problem. It is important that family members have a clear understanding of schizophrenia and are aware of and prepared to face the difficulties and problem associated with the illness. They should be able to render the necessary support structure to enhance a patient's remission and recovery back to the mainstream of his life.

Dexter is like a light bulb turned on and off However, with the persevering support of hi relatives and friends plus the antipsychotic medications prescribed by his doctor, the periods o normalcy are getting longer and his schizophrenic fits are getting shorter and milder. He i learning to start living back in the real world Hopefully, he could go back to work again and assume being a husband and a father, role which he had to abandon for a while because o the nasty tricks his mind played on him.

(Medical Files is based on actual case historie with some information changed to hide th patient's identity. For feedback, email raffymd@ manila .com.ph.)

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BUSINESS

Private sector urged to develop Mindanao

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has urged the private sector to assume an active role in organizing business activities that will accelerate the economic development of Mindanao.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the inauguration of Swift Foods Inc.'s poultry processing facilities in Misamis Oriental, the President said: "Being a firm believer in the private sector as the engine of economic growth, I am encouraged to see the initiative of Swift in Northern Mindanao, a manifestation that the company shares the government's vision to develop the region."

Swift president and COO Bernie Concepcion announced the expansion of the company's poultry operations in Northern Mindanao into a much larger, integrated operational facility capable of serving the growing markets of the country.

The move will consist of several stages, including the establishment of Swift's biggest dressing plant and further processing facility in Misamis Oriental.

As the world gets smaller with globalization, Ms Macapagal said, "it is inspiring to see local industries taking major steps to gain competitive advantage by fully harnessing the resources of our countryside. It is precisely this kind of business leadership that holds out the best hope for developing our country's vast potential for the future."

Concepcion added the company's decision to extend its sphere of operations in the South was part of its commitment to Ms Macapagal's call to help develop Mindanao.

Concepcion said Swift's primary focus this year was the overall development of its poultry operations in order to meet the Filipino consumers' increasing demand for quality chicken products. "And what better place to achieve this task than in Northern Mindanao, our country's food basket," he said.

Swift has established a strong patronage among consumers nationwide for its high-quality products. Swift operations in Northern Mindanao have consistently been the company's best performing branch among its nationwide network.

Ayala creates new unit to oversee $200-M assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Corp. has placed $200 million worth of non-core assets outside of its three flagship businesses—banking, property and telecommunication—under the custody of a new unit created to maximize their capital values through strategic partnership or outright sale.

During the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday, Ayala president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala also said the conglomerate had allotted a group-wide capital expenditure budget of P40 billion for this year, up from the P37 billion spent last year.

Ayala managing director Rufino Luis Manotok explained to reporters that the biggest items included in the P40-billion fresh investment budget for the year were P34 billion for wireless phone unit Globe Telecom, P4.2 billion for property unit Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) and P750 million for water distributor Manila Water Co.

Zobel de Ayala also stressed that the creation of the new internal unit, AC Capital, was part of the corporate restructuring mapped out to strengthen Ayala as a holding company and a premier conglomerate amid the challenges of globalization. He told stockholders that AC Capital was "probably the most important single change that we will be making."

AC Capital was tasked to take over responsibility for all Ayala businesses except Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe, ALI and Ayala International.

"AC Capital will be the vehicle which will drive Ayala's renewed business-building efforts in the future, leveraging on our unique portfolio of capabilities and our unrivaled reputation as a business partner," Zobel de Ayala said.

The $200 million (based on book value) worth of businesses transferred to AC Capital included stakes in Manila Water, electronics manufacturer Integrated Microelectronics Inc., information technology holding company i-Ayala Co. Inc., automotive manufacturers Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and Isuzu Philippines Corp., and other non-core assets.

"But not everything is for sale," Zobel de Ayala stressed in a briefing. "There are some loose assets that we're trying to sell but the idea is to create a new value paradigm."

AC Capital's mission is to find new opportunities (such as getting strategic investors or selling idle assets), build significant businesses and manage assets for better value.

"We are just beginning, and we will proceed carefully, step by step, to evolve Ayala Corp. into a more sharply focused enterprise," Zobel de Ayala said.

"Perhaps it is now time to change our view of the Ayala, which produced stable earnings in an almost annuity-like fashion. The new environment we face necessarily produces some earnings volatility, but we believe there is also a compelling and greatly enhanced value proposition, which should ultimately redound to the benefit of all shareholders," he explained.

In 2001, Ayala's net profit dropped by 14 percent to P2.1 billion from P2.43 billion the previous year. With the improved environment this year, however, Zobel de Ayala said earnings "should be substantially higher."

Also part of Ayala's strategy is to reduce its debts, which stood at P52 billion ($1 billion) as of end-2001, bulk of which consisted of dollar-denominated liabilities.

The conglomerate retired ahead of maturity $100 million in debts in the first quarter.

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Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**

JIMENEZ. Not competitive.

Sexy Joyce Jimenez is a kid at heart

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

JOYCE is compact, self-contained and slimmer these days. Thirty pounds slimmer to be exact! She strides with glamour yet has a sweet and girlish laugh. She is a child-woman who knows about celebrity, glamour and creating a commotion.

SEXY/ p.C2

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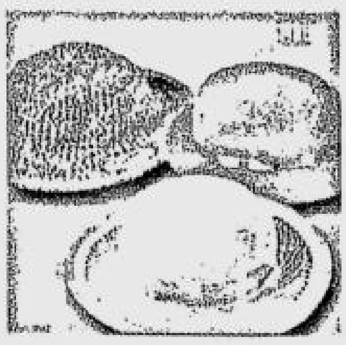

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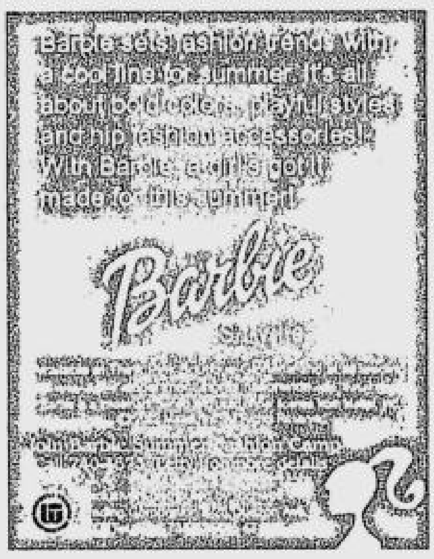
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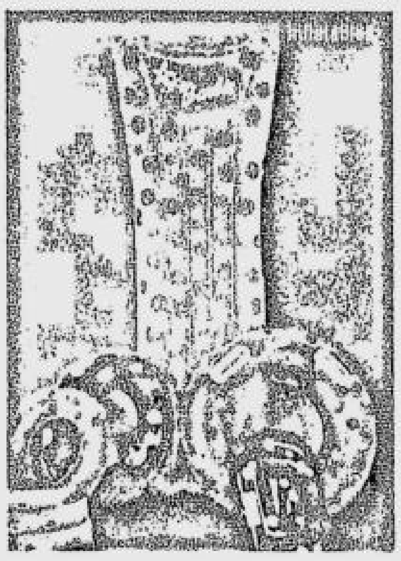

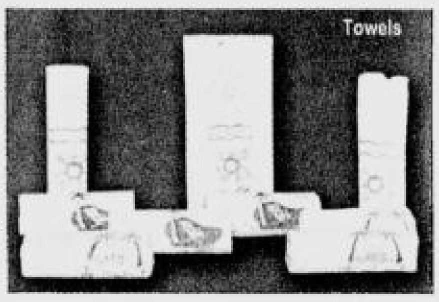
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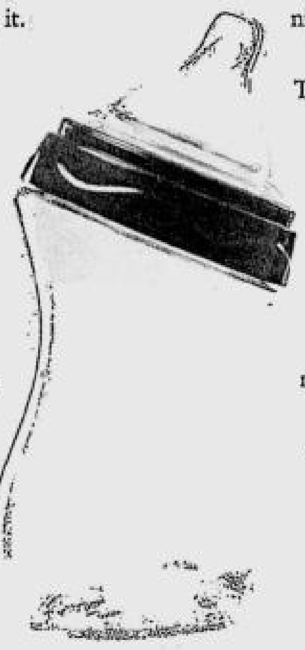

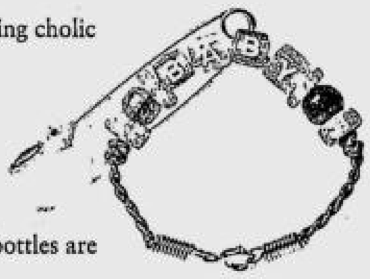

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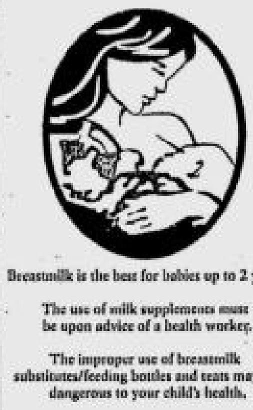

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'E.T.' enhancements hit the spot with viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

VIEWERS who have enjoyed the current reissue of Steven Spielberg's "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial" are curious about the "enhancements" that the sci-fi film underwent to make it an even more viewable movie on its 20th anniversary this year. What exactly did Spielberg do to the film, this second time around?

Technical flaws

Let's hear it from Spielberg himself: "Through the years, I've seen the film many times on videotape, and I would flinch at technical flaws that perhaps only I noticed. For example, I always wanted to fix E.T.'s run at the beginning of the film when he was being chased, because he was simply an outline on a rail.

"There were also moments in the movie that were cut from the original which I thought would be great to put back in."

Before the enhancements could be effected, however, some restoration work had to be done. Film being a perishable substance, 20 years had taken their toll on the condition of the original negative, so the tonalities had to be brought back to their original intensity.

Six-track spread

In terms of sound, John Williams' music was digitalized and given a six-track spread, which gave it a fuller sound without rerecording anything.

For the enhancements, Industrial Light and Magic preserved the spirit of the original film, but used computer graphics to make the images more believable and vivid. Spielberg went through the original movie again and "spotted" each shot that he wanted to revise with state-of-the-art visual effects.

'E.T.' The innocence of a baby and a jittery quality that deepened his character.

But Spielberg didn't want the changes to call attention to themselves, so the enhancements are subtle—widening the range of E.T.'s facial expressions, or redoing a background with new technology that allows for moving clouds or wind blowing through forest trees.

Cape

Elliot's first bicycle flight with E.T. was redone by having the cape of his Halloween costume flapping in the wind, whereas in the original it was stationary.

A scene showing E.T. in the bathtub that was cut out of the original movie was edited back into the film, and it strengthened the growing bond between E.T. and Elliott.

Another scene reedited into the picture was part of the long Halloween section. Spielberg decided to put it back in because "it contained one of Drew (Barrymore's) best moments."

The ILM restorers tried not to make E.T. overly fluid in his movements, which they could easily have done with computer animation. To them, part of E.T.'s special appeal was the way that he combined the innocence of a baby and a jittery quality that deepened his character.

Visual references

Since none of the original E.T. puppets existed any longer, the ILM crew had to go through the original film shot by shot to get visual references for the new models that they had to create and visually scan.

Perhaps the most important alteration that Spielberg made was something he had wanted to do for years: remove the guns from the hands of the police and government agents who were chasing E.T., Elliott and his friends towards the end of the film.

Spielberg regretted that guns were used to stop children on bicycles, so they were digitally replaced with walkie-talkies. His logic: the world of 2002 is a very different one from 1982, and he felt he had a stronger responsibility to his audience, which is mostly made up of young viewers.

Too soft

"I hear that some people have accused me of being too soft, and I'm sure the National Rifle Association will be angry at me as well. But I stand by my decision."

Seeing the restored film as a whole, Spielberg shares, "Our hope is that the changes aren't obvious, that they just flow into the rest of the film and have the same charm that the original did. When people see this version, they shouldn't notice the enhancements, because what they're going to see is the film, "E.T.," not the special effects!"

Sexy Joyce . . .

From page C1

She has starred in a dozen films which built up her reputation as a sexy actress, yet she feels she's not that popular.

Grateful

"I don't feel like I'm on top. I've always been grateful for what I have, and I don't complain about the things that I don't have," Joyce shares. "My biggest accomplishment is being able to stand on my own two feet.

"I joined show business not because I wanted to become rich and famous. It's just that I had the opportunity and I wanted to make the most of it," Joyce smiles. "I'm a real person. I try to be myself at all times."

She's not competitive at all. "I don't think of the others as competition. It's not like a race where you get a medal if you win. It's just a job. My career is not my life. It's just work!"

Sufficient

She believes that she doesn't have to bare or dress in a provocative manner to be sexy. Believing in herself is sufficient.

"You can be sexy *and* wholesome at the same time. There are some people who won't think less of you because you bare. I appreciate people who do think of me that way and strive to do better because of them."

It's hard work to look like you're passionately in love with your leading man. How does she motivate herself to be credible onscreen? "I try to convince myself that I am in love with the guy. Usually, *walang* dialogue *ang* lovemaking, so you speak with your movements, with the look in your eyes.

"The way you caress his face is important. If your fingers are stiff, *mahahalata na hindi totoo*," Joyce shares.

Conservative

Yes she also believes that in real life, love and sex should go together. She grew up in a conservative family. She explains that she's a late bloomer. She started dating guys when she was already 17 years old. And, even then, the guys she went out with did not expect to score on their first date. She was born in the US but had traditional Filipino values. She never went out with Americans.

It wasn't easy to shed her inhibitions on camera, either. She turned down two roles requiring her to strip before finally giving in when she turned 20. "I accepted it because it was a starring role. And, I was ready for it.

"Being comfortable with yourself is very hard. I mean, sometimes for people to look at themselves in the mirror is really hard to do. So I had to be comfortable with my body and my sexuality first. I had to be prepared."

Baring has made her more comfortable with her body. Today, her figure is slimmer, her cheekbones are smooth and sleek and there's no baby fat.

Three years

"What's funny is, it's only when I stopped trying to lose weight that it came off. I just got tired of everyone calling me fat, so I figured, it's been three years, I think the public has accepted my body the way it is. So I stopped dieting. And that's when, all of a sudden, it just started to come off naturally!"

Her exercise regimen now includes an hour a day, three times a week of working out at a gym, and boxing twice a week. And there's this "five-meals-a-day method."

"I'm a simple girl, a kid at heart, more than anything. If you see me, I'm the biggest kid! I'm not the vamp they see onscreen," Joyce clarifies.

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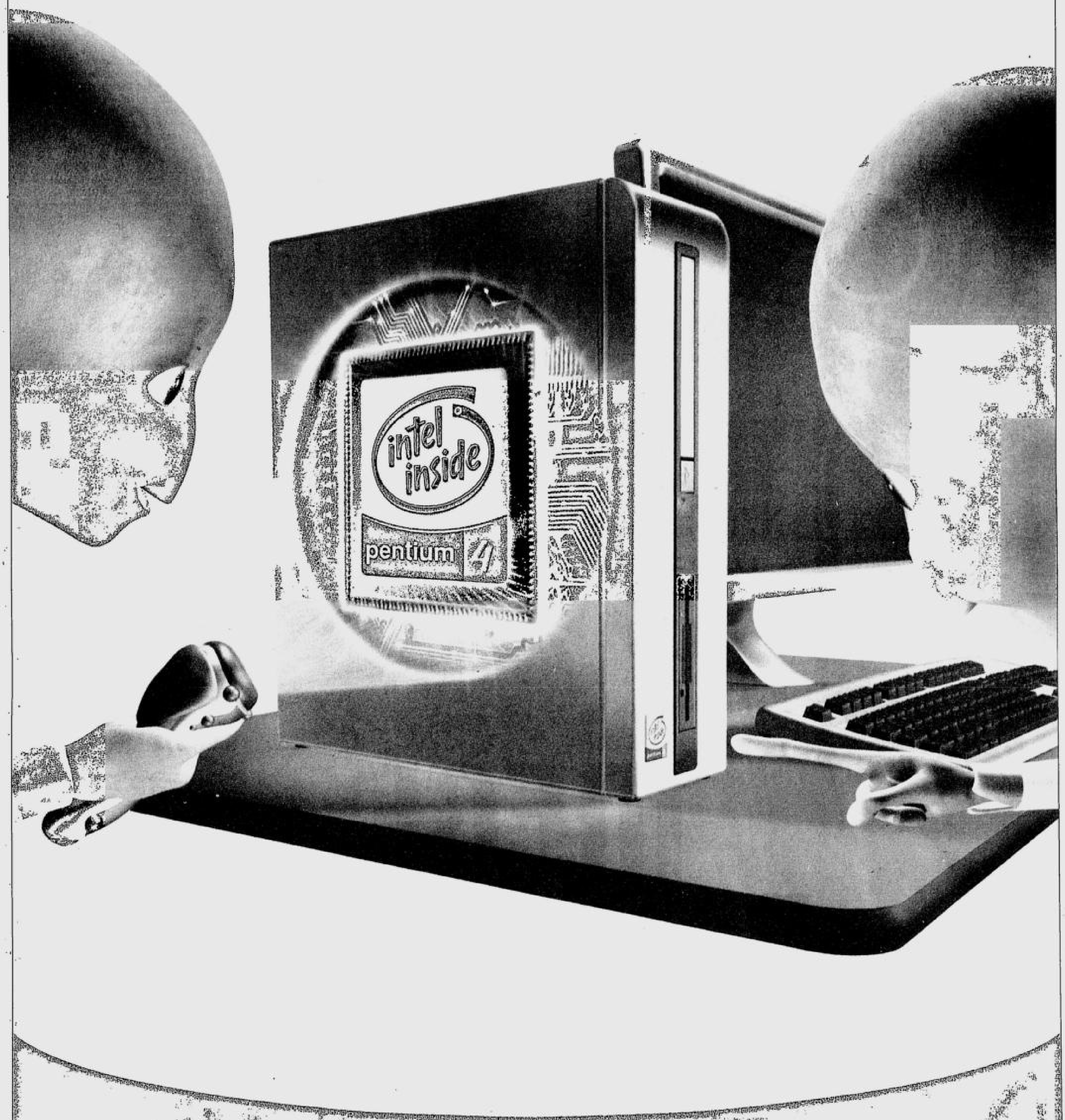

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By Noelani Torre

COMPREHENSIVE and sweeping, Denny Martin Flinn's "Musical!: A Grand Tour" (Schirmer Books) is grand indeed. A complete narrative history of American musical theater, it provides readers with an entertaining account of the American musical's development, from its Greco-Roman roots to today's Broadway.

Dominant personalities

Like most other histories of Broadway musicals, Finn's "Musical" follows a chronological path. However, unlike most other histories, it is not just a plain recounting but an examination and critique, as well. And this examination doesn't just focus on composers, but also on the field's dominant personalities, disciplines, and genres

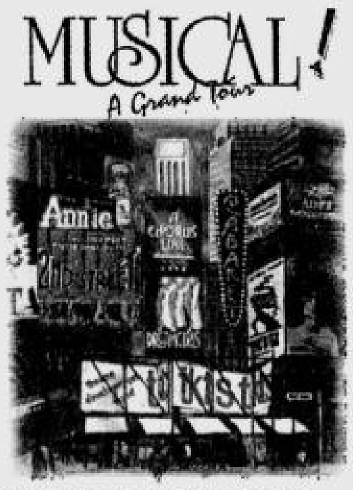
Finn begins with the European influences of the American musical—from Aristophanes' Greek comedies to Moliere, and on to Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas. He shows readers how integral music and dance were to the earliest theater—that is, the Greek and Roman—and how the ancients went about their productions.

He also discusses "The Beggar's Opera" of the 18th century, whose "enormous success and acceptance" was a "dramatic achievement so important that its discovery alone begins the history of the musical comedy—the musical numbers were woven into the plot." And the stage is all set for Part Two: The American Musical.

Broadway showman

In the book's second part, Flinn traces the beginnings of the American musical from the first one ever—the showgirl spectacle "The Black Crook" in 1866, to operettas ("Or the Thin Lady Sings"), revues, and to Broadway showman George M. Cohan, whose "career dominated Broadway from 1904 until 1920 and ran on until 1928."

This is followed by "the groundbreaking Princess musicals of Bolton, Wodehouse, and Kern" which were "fast, clever, and dramatically efficient." From there it was a short step to Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's landmark "Show Boat," George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," and "Oklahoma," where choreographer Agnes De Mille finally elevated dance in musical theater.



FLINN'S book provides readers with an entertaining account of the American musical's development.

Other great choreographers would follow in De Mille's footsteps, not the least of whom was Jerome Robbins who, along with Leonard Bernstein, gave us the unforgettable "West Side Story."

Another director-choreographer who followed in the tradition was Michael Bennett, a former apprentice of Robbins. His hugely successful "A Chorus Line" contributed much and its artistic legacy is "an endowment to the American musical theater that will never be overtaken." This all led up to the Golden Age of the '50s and '60s, tackled in the third part of the book.

Golden Age

Flinn waxes enthusiastic in the next nine chapters, describing the glorious Golden Age of the American musical in terms of its directors, choreographers, bookwriters, lyricists, and composers, whose works are carefully examined like prized jewels.

Several chapters are also devoted to the different genres—the black musical, the rock musical, the English musical, and the off-Broadway musical. Major and minor classics—"My Fair Lady," "Camelot," "Man of La Mancha," "The Music Man"—also "deserve mention as superbly crafted, mainstream entertainment" and for their "unique if eccentric contributions."

The book's conclusion—"Part Four: End of an Era" is in a decidedly less glowing tone. "To be precise," Flinn begins, "the end began at eight o'clock on April 21, 1977 when "Annie" opened at the Alvin Theater on West Fifty-second Street." He goes on to bemoan and bewail the "decline and fall" of the American musical after that point, sparing no criticism and analyzing the causes.

"Bad work, tired formulas, no stars, no writers, and the AIDS crisis have all helped to cripple the American musical theater," writes Flinn. "And money."

Simply put, staging a musical is much more expensive nowadays that it was then. And with people reluctant to open their wallets, satisfied with film and television entertainment, the Broadway musical has become "a huge gamble" that has "painted the art into a conservative corner, inhospitable to serious drama."

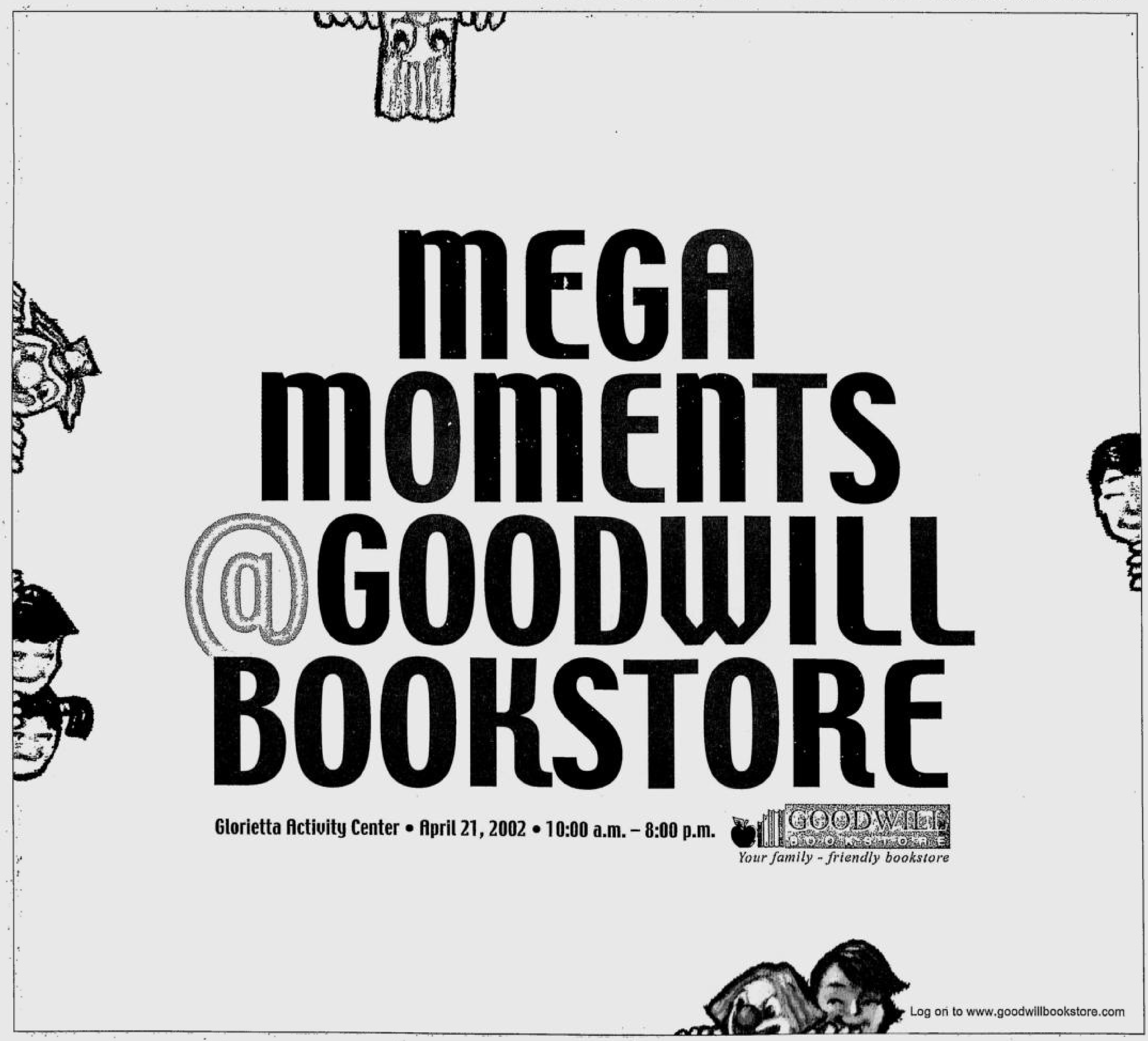
Tragedy

Flinn is harsh with the "English poperettas" and with Andrew Lloyd Webber "who has created scarce melodies for abysmal librettos and expensive, dismally choreographed extravaganzas." For him, it's nothing short of a tragedy that such "spectacles" as "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera," and "Jesus Christ Superstar" have replaced "West Side Story" and "A Chorus Line."

He doesn't have any compliments for Cameron Macintosh either, whose "Les Miserables" he describes as dull, and "Miss Saigon" the "worst-crafted musical ever to succeed on Broadway."

Still, Flinn is still optimistic at book's end, and with hopes for such musicals—original American musicals—as "Big," "Rent," and "Bring on Da Noise, Bring on Da Funk."

We think he is a tad too apocalyptic toward the end, what with the renewed vitality of musicals recently, but as a whole the book is fresh, witty, and engaging. It gives us useful insights and a new perspective on the 20th-century history of an art form that has long given us magical entertainment, and influenced our lives.



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'Hart's War' tells a valiant P.O.W.'s tale

WILLIS. Plays the highest-ranking American officer in the camp.

By Alina Tugend

NEW YORK—As Nicholas Katzenbach walked onto the film set of "Hart's War," the memories of his prisoner-of-war days during World War II were brought back in full force.

"It was as realistic, as accurate as it could be," says Katzenbach, 80, whose son John wrote the novel on which the MGM film based. "It gave me a chill."

Replica

John, 51, recalls his father stepping out of a taxi in Milovice, the small Czech town where much of the film was shot and seeing the replica of the guard tower. "He said to me, 'I never thought I'd see that again,' said John, who doesn't remember his father, Nicholas—attorney general under President Lyndon Johnson—talking much about his 27 months as a P.O.W in Germany.

There weren't many stories about his being shot down in the Mediterranean in February 1943 on his 20th bombing mission, about being plucked out of the ocean by the Italians, being given starvation rations or being jammed into boxcars so full only half the men could sit at a time. But John Katzenbach is a former journalist and a mystery writer, and ultimately his father's history became fodder for a novel.

In a recent interview, both father and son stressed that the book is a novel and only loosely based on Nicholas' experiences. And as is almost always the case, the film itself is one step removed from the book.

Navigator

For example, in the book, Tommy, like young Nicholas Katzenbach, is a navigator who is shot down. Like Nicholas, he is a young Ivy Leaguer. Like Nicholas, he was shoeless upon capture. But the similarity pretty much ends there.

"We departed quite a bit from the novel and at times John wasn't quite sure, but at the end of the day, we didn't depart from the integrity," says the film's producer, David Ladd.

John Katzenbach agrees. "A lot of novelists sit around and whine about what Hollywood does to their books, but movies are not books. I wanted them to find the core of what was in the book and turn it into a terrific movie—to create something that would stand on its own two feet."

Despite the fact that the movie is being marketed as a Bruce Willis action shoot-'em-up—to the dismay of director Gregory Hoblit, who calls it a "disservice" to the real P.O.W.s—the crux of the film is about two black aviators who are shot down and join the all-white camp.

The fliers—Lt. Lincoln Scott (Terrence Howard) and Lt. Lamar Archer (Vicellous Shannon)—ignite seething racism in some of the enlisted men, leading to a murder and a court-martial within the camp.

Colin Farrell, the young Irish actor known best for his work in the Vietnam-era movie "Tigerland," plays Tommy Hart, a fresh-faced lieutenant who represents defendant Scott, while Willis stars as tough and embittered Col. William McNamara, the highest-ranking American officer in the camp.

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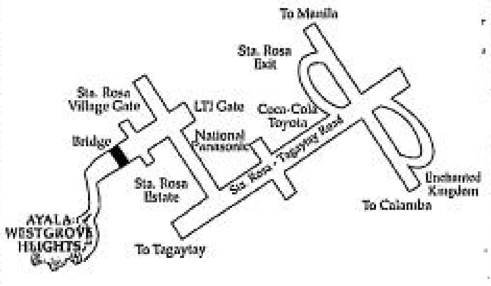

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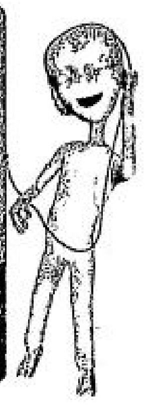

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 20 – APRIL 26

The network is not responsible for last minute changes in

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials	5:30 Hunter X Hunter 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Entertainment Tonite 6:30 Hot Tickets 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *32nd Box Office King & Queen of RP Movies*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Star For a Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 IBC Elorde	7:00 Explorer 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Nearly Famous *Vegas Show Girls #3* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile 12:00 Movies on E! *Breaking Away*
SUN	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 8:00 Home Along Da Riles 8:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 9:00 NBA 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night 11:00 Fashion TV	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 KI 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:00 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *J. Lo in Concert-Let's Get Loud* 10:00 *Ricky Martin* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *People's Choice Awards* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Matt Damon* 10:00 E! News Weekend 10:30 E! Coming Attractions 11:00 In Focus 12:00 Movies on E! *In Love &War*
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Formula 1 Racing	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 Sons of Thunder 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Best UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Lauren Chapin* 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 E! Specials *AJ After Hours Episode 3* 11:00 Wild On *High Seas*
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Oka Tokat 9:30 Attagirl 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:00 Mad TV	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 NBI Files	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Storytellers 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Heather Graham* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Whattamen 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	4:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:00 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Fortaleza*
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Concert At The Park 7:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 NBA	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinnes World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Barkada Nights 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Ed Burns* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Resorts*
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Ingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Lionheart*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Marimar 7:00 Monica Brava 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 TxTube	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm in the Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Christina Aguilera*	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Survivor 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes *The Musketeer* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Bermuda Triangle*

Viewers cite their favorite local television channels

By Noelani Torre

NOBODY can deny that cable TV has worked wonders for our television-viewing life. The variety and greater quantity of choices offered by cable have banished the sighs of Filipino viewers who have professed to be sick and tired with the same, old things shown on local television channels.

Off-color jokes

Nobody should be without cable they say, not unless you want to spend your viewing time watching cloying telenovelas and listening to off-color jokes.

But is it really that bad? Well, to a certain extent, yes. Our local channels *still* have those sickening soap operas, and some program hosts *still* make the occasional unfunny off-color comment. But there is definitely more to our homegrown networks than that.

The advent of cable television has in fact forced our sluggish formula-relying channels to start beefing up their selections in order to be able to compete and ultimately, survive. It's a TV jungle out there, and only the strong channels with high ratings can make it.

In line with this, we recently asked some viewers which local television channel they thought is the best. Their vote is almost unanimous in favor of ABS-CBN's, Channel 2, with only one or two waving the RPN-9 banner. Here are our respondents' reasons for their choice:

Reality

"RPN-9, because most of the good teen-oriented and also adult-oriented shows are there, like 'X-Files,' 'Chicago Hope,' 'The Practice,' 'Ally McBeal,' 'Roswell,' etc. I like science fiction and shows that relate to reality because most of the time these aren't boring. I don't like the Filipino soap operas that are usually shown on other channels. Watching them is a waste of time."—***Abby Demafeliz, 21.***

Romantic pairing

"ABS-CBN. *Pagdating sa mga* soap opera, *sa kanila ang pinaka*-OK, *pinaka*-believable. *Yung sa iba kasi,* out of this world *na talaga, hindi kapani-paniwala.* Effective *din ang* romantic pairing *nila kay* Jericho *at* Kristine *at kay* Judy Ann *at* Piolo. *Ayaw ko nga lang sa* Claudine-Carlos tandem. *Hindi kasi gaanong* sympathetic *ang* character *ni* Carlos Agassi.

"*Pagdating sa* news and documentaries, *sila ang gusto kong panoorin. Maayos ang kanilang* technical aspects—*yung* lighting, *mas kaunting mali* as compared to others, etc. *At sila din ang may pinakamabait na* game show. *Kahit hindi sila magaling sa lahat ng* aspect, *gaya ng* animé, *naba*-balance *naman nila.*"—***Patrick Cabato, 23***

'X-FILES.' A favorite series on RPN-9.

Best people

"ABS-CBN. First, because it is the most tested and popular station. The best people are part of it. Second, ABS is the original quality, service-oriented Filipino channel and it is widely recognized here as well as abroad. In fact, other channels imitate their shows and programs, particularly GMA. Best things come from the original thoughts and efforts of tested men."—***Roxanne Rosquita, 18.***

Absolute favorite

"RPN-9. Aside from the fact that they feature the 'X-Files,' my absolute favorite SF series, they have a line-up of shows that interest all kinds of people.

"For example, 'The Practice' is popular with those who have an interest in law. 'Chicago Hope' most likely provides doctors and would-be doctors with inspiration. 'Ally McBeal' is always funny and 'Roswell' is a lighter, younger version of 'X-Files.'

"When I find time to watch TV, I prefer watching these series and RPN is the only network that fulfills my need."—***Ryan Montilla, 28.***

Tactful

"I guess it will be ABS-CBN because their hosts and their comments are tactful, especially regarding GMA. *Napaka*-rude *kasi ng* GMA, *nakakainis silang mag*-comment *tungkol sa ibang mga* channel. *'Tsaka ang daming bastos sa kanila.*

"*Mas* informative *ang mga* shows *ng* ABS, *at* majority *ng mga* comedy sitcoms *ay malinis, walang* toilet humor."—***Adrienne Kristi Babiera, 19.***

Originality

"ABS-CBN is the best channel because of its programs' originality. ABS was able to develop its own game show while other stations only imported the American ones. ABS was also able to provide Pinoy telenovelas that clicked, and they are the channel that most viewers in this country can watch their technology allows them to reach a greater number of people, even those in far-flung places."—***Pamela Ann Lloren, 18.***

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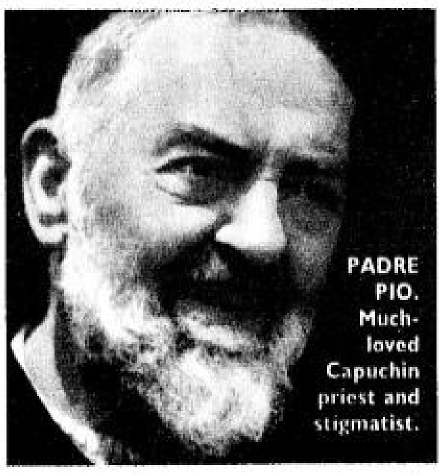

PADRE PIO. Much-loved Capuchin priest and stigmatist.

'Sundin Ang Loob Mo' play honors Padre Pio on his canonization

ON June 16 this year, Padre Pio, the world-renowned and much-loved Capuchin priest and stigmatist, will be proclaimed a saint of the Roman Catholic Church in impressive and moving canonization rites at the Vatican, presided over by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Landmark event

Padre Pio's canonization is a landmark event for his followers in the Philippines, so some of them are joining religious tour groups to witness his canonization rites at the Vatican in June.

But what about other Filipinos who do not have the time or funds to make such a trip? Some followers of Padre Pio have asked Nestor U. Torre to write and direct a biographical play in the stigmatist-priest's honor, with performances to start in May, leading up to the canonization rites in June, and after.

Torre is the logical choice for the special project because, aside from his non-religious hit musicals like "Katy!" "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?" and "Magsimula Ka," he has written and directed such acclaimed and popular religious plays as "Magnificat," "Nasaan si Hesus?" and "Bakhita, The Musical," which have been performed all over the country.

Touring production

Like those accalimed presentations, Torre's play on Padre Pio, titled "Sundin Ang Loob Mo: Buhay at Pag-aalay ni Padre Pio," is a portable touring production that can be performed anywhere, in schools, churches, offices, town plazas, etc.

If you want the play to be performed in your locality to honor Padre Pio in time for his canonization, please call Pablo at 713-9323 or 0917-9893089.

"Sundin Ang Loob Mo" has a gifted cast of performing artists, including some actors who have appeared in "Magnificat" and "Nasaan si Hesus?"

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2 Winners

3rd- Outdoor Picnic Package - 2 Winners

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HERE'S HOW:

1. Write your name, address, telephone number, age and signature on a NESTLÉ SUMMER GETAWAY entry form. If an entry form is not available, you may write on a piece of paper or on the label.
2. Attach entry form or piece of paper to a single wrapper, label, pouch or cap of any Nestlé or Goya Chocolates and Candies such as: Kit Kat, Nestlé Classic, Nestlé Classic Eclairs, Nestlé Crunch, Fox's, Goya Bite Sizes.
3. Drop your entries at the NESTLÉ SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at selected outlets.
4. Or you may send your entries to any of the following:
   Goya, Inc. - 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang, Marikina City
   Nestlé Philippines, Inc. - 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
   Or any Nestlé office near you.
5. Draw dates and Cut off Dates are as follows:
   Draw date - June 28, 2002
   Cut off date - June 14, 2002

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. All prizes are tax - free.
2. All prizes are not convertible to cash but transferable.

SHOWCASE	1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
Shore-to-Shore Holiday	2 Asian Cruise Packages for 2 to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand + $1,000 Pocket Money	2 Trips for 2 to Phuket, Thailand + $1,000 Pocket Money	2 Trips for 2 to Singapore + $1,000 Pocket Money
Family Fiesta Package	2 Trips for 4 to Plantation Bay, Cebu + Php 20,000 Pocket Money	2 Videoke Sets	2 Outdoor Picnic Packages

3. Total prizes to be given away per region (GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO) are as follows:
4. Draw date is on June 28, 2002.
5. On each draw date, entries will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry drawn in each showcase per region will be declared as the winner.
7. A winner can only win once per showcase per draw. However, a person can win in another showcase in the same draw.
8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouch or cap must be intact to qualify as an entry.
9. Nonwinning entries in the first draw will [illegible] be qualified in the succeeding draws.
10. All raffle promotion winners will be notified via telegram, which will indicate how and where they may claim their prizes. [illegible] within 60 days from the date of [illegible] DOH-BFAD.
11. When claiming their prizes, winners must present the original telegram of notice and any two valid identification papers: Company ID, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, Passport, Marriage/Driver's License or SSS ID.
12. All prizes are transferable provided claimants present the following: letter of authorization from winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of winner, any two valid identification papers or IDs of claimant and original telegram sent by Goya, Inc.
13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestlé office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. Winners of the trips will shoulder and facilitate all documents necessary for the travel.
16. All winners will shoulder transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
17. Goya, Inc. reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes.
18. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise all the raffle draws.
19. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
20. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

Promo Period: April 1 - June 14, 2002

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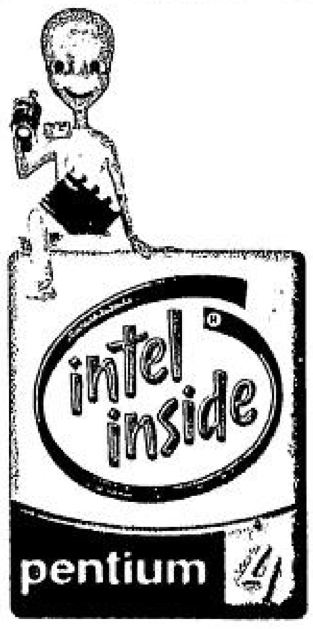

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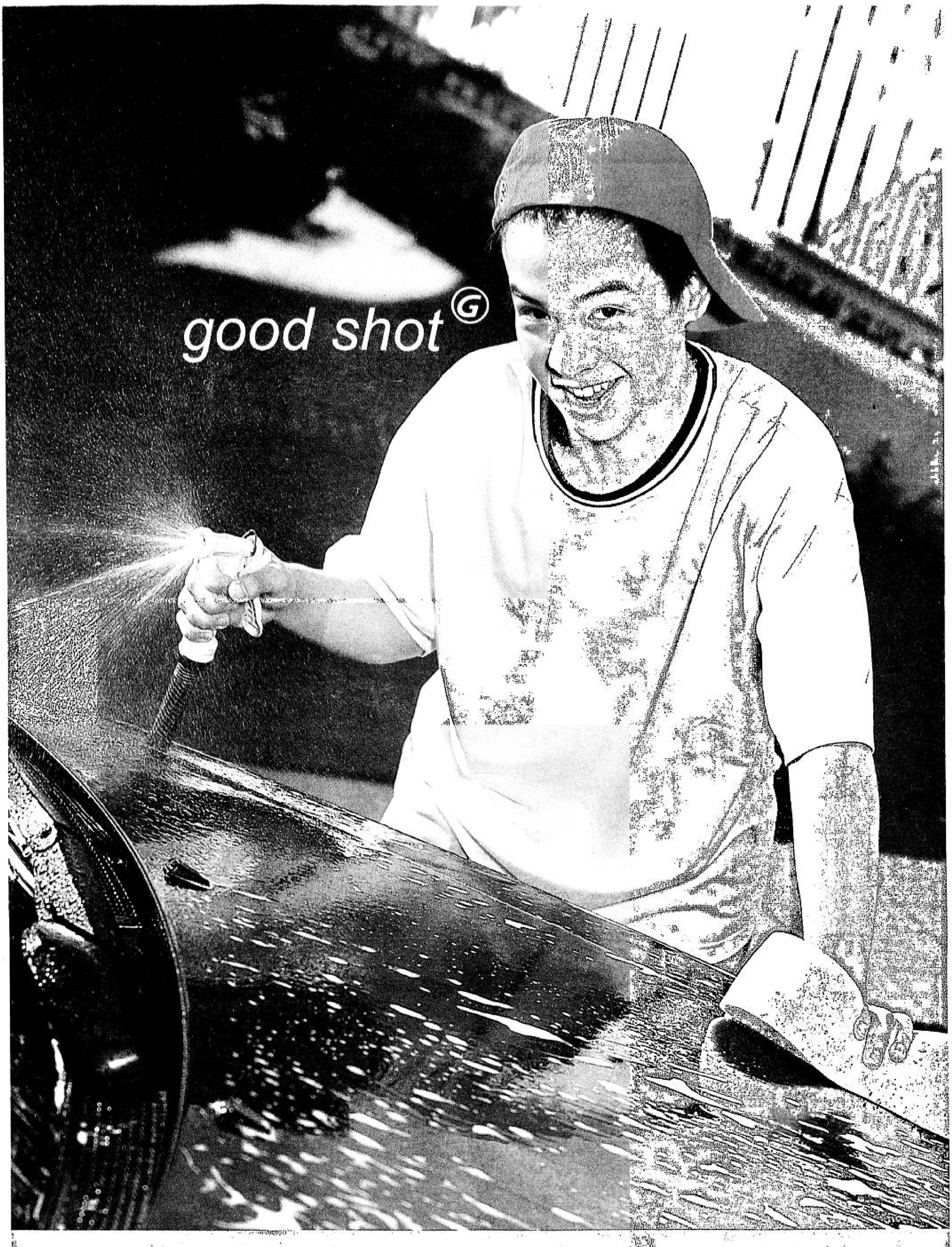

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Letterman to stay at CBS

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Late-night television host David Letterman announced during the taping of a recent show that he has renewed his contract with CBS for up to five years rather than move to the rival ABC network.

Speculation

The decision puts to rest more than a week of speculation that Letterman, the No. 2 late-night host behind rival Jay Leno at NBC, would switch networks for a third time, thus displacing ABC News veteran Ted Koppel and his 22-year-old program "Nightline."

Letterman began his tenure at CBS nearly nine years ago after 11 years as host of NBC's "Late Night" program, following "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson" at 12:30 a.m. He jumped to CBS after losing out to Leno as Carson's successor in the flagship 11:30 p.m. slot in 1993.

"Dave has announced that he's staying with CBS. He announced it on the show tonight," said Rob Burnett, the top executive with "Late Show with David Letterman" producer Worldwide Pants Inc.

Returning to work on Monday after a week on vacation, Letterman joked about the flurry of attention sparked by his negotiations with CBS and ABC, joking to the audience: "This is how strange my life has been the last week and a half—earlier today, I got a call from NBC offering me the 'Tonight Show.'"

Deal

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, but sources last week said CBS had agreed to bump Letterman's annual salary from about $30 million to $31.5 million a year and to continue paying an additional $40 million annually to license rights to the show from Worldwide Pants.

The network actually gets about $11 million of that back in production costs and rent for the Ed Sullivan Theater, the CBS-owned stage where the "Late Show" is taped.

The renewal allows Letterman to remain at the network for up to five years but permits him to opt out of his contract sooner if he cares to, Burnett said.

As part of the deal, CBS chief executive Leslie Moonves promised that the network's parent company, Viacom Inc., would more aggressively promote Letterman's show "across all of the Viacom properties," which include the Infinity Broadcasting radio network and the MTV and VH1 cable networks, Burnett said. *Reuters*

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GMA-7 plays hardball

HAVE you noticed? This year, GMA-7 has become more actively competitive than it used to be in TV seasons past. This tougher thrust must be due to the channel's new leadership, and its object must be to further narrow the gap between Channel 7 and the local TV frontrunner, ABS-CBN's Channel 2.

The first volley this year was GMA-7's decision to match Channel 2's "three soaps in a row" combination each weeknight with its own "*telebabad*" package ("Mari Mar," "Monica Brava," "Sana Ikaw na Nga" and "Kung Mawawala Ka").

Next, ABS-CBN's Richard Gomez bolted the leading network to co-host "S-Files" and star in a new soap on GMA-7. This is deemed a "casting-snatching" coup of sorts, because Richard has been an ABS-CBN baby for more than 15 years.

Of course, ABS-CBN has also pirated some GMA-7 talents, but Richard's change of allegiance is the biggest thus far this year. To even up the score, ABS-CBN should entice similarly big GMA talents at the level of Regine Velasquez or Judy Ann Santos.

In Rosanna's case, that could be difficult to pull off. In another GMA-7 volley, she's topbilling a new sitcom with Rudy Fernandez.

In addition, the channel is bringing back its popular series of telesines. The launching TV movie, "Bugso," is particularly auspicious because it stars Vilma Santos and is directed by Christopher de Leon.

Plans are also underway for the GMA network to strengthen its

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

presence abroad, particularly with shows for Filipino communities in the States, like ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel.

These major moves will be hard for ABS-CBN to pooh-pooh in the coming months. What the country's leading channel needs to do is to think up ways to offset the plus points that GMA will gain as a result of these and other new initiatives.

The plot thickens, and the TV ratings war continues to escalate. Once the dust settles some months from now, we'll see just how much GMA shall have gained from its decision to play hardball versus ABS-CBN this year.

Follow San Miguel's 'Sarap to Sundown' summer 2002 party trail

After setting the party tone in Libis, Nueva Vizcaya, Tagbilaran City, Cebu City, Negros, Boracay, Subic, Agusan del Norte, Zamboanga City and Puerto Galera, San Miguel Beer's "Sarap to Sundown" summer 2002 is again ready to give everybody in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao more tuneful summer treats.

Last April 16-19 in Baguio, SMB joined the exciting and star-studded 12th Goma Cup at Camp John Hay.

"SMB Summer Fiesta" next spruces up the already festive atmosphere in Tanduyong in San Jose City on April 21 and the "Kadaugan sa Mactan" in Cebu from April 22 to 27. Expect barrels of fun, food and exciting activities and, of course, overflowing ice-cold San Miguel Beer.

The azure skies and white sands of Boracay dotted with hot babes is the perfect backdrop for another SMB gig, "Fun@Boracay" from April 25 to 27 at the Cocomangas Resort, *the* place to be.

SMB scorches up the metro anew with the "SMB-NU 107 Shebang" at the Fort and the "SMB Summer Party" at the Rockwell Center on April 27. Then, SMB invades "Pista'y Dayat" in Pangasinan from April 28 to May 1.

Jackielou Blanco returns to kid camp May 6-11

Award-winning fitness icon Jackielou Blanco recently conducted taebo-aerobics exercises for 35 participants of Snack 2002 (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids) at Taal Lake Yacht Club, Talisay, Batangas.

Chosen as Best in Taebo-aerobics was 11-year-old grade-V student at Xavier School Api Laperal, son of Olie Lapera, well-known special events producer.

Another camp is scheduled from May 6 to 11. This will be the eighth camp in the four years of Snack. Other activities include sailing and mountaineering activities at Mt. Talamitam, taekwondo under Monsour del Rosario, gymnastics, ceramic painting, kite-making and flying, the Lubid adventure team-building games, and a pet clinic under Sharmaine Arnaiz. Call camp director Bibsy Carballo 721-0181/ 726-7164/ 724-1762.

JACKIELOU Blanco conducts taebo-aerobics for Snack 2002 kids.

Al Quinn's mixed media exhibit opens April 26

Film and television director Al Quinn's new exhibit, "Quintessential Flow: A Mixed Media Exhibit" opens at Home Zone at the third level of Glorietta 4 on April 26, at 6 p.m. and will run up to May 5.

The unique collection portrays various forms of Mother Nature using water, driftwood and seashells.

"What I've ventured into is almost like sculpting," says Quinn, who will present 37 collections of variations on natural land and seascapes. "With water, stones, seashells and driftwood, I've came up with various forms of nature that I loved in my youth."

Quinn adds that he was able to use his brush in some collection. "As I used cement in some works, I had to paint the finished rock formations to make them blend with the natural rocks."

Silver anniversary special

The Malabon International Baptist Church (MIBC) will celebrate its 25th founding Anniversary on Sunday, April 28, 2002, with the theme "United we grow, together we go."

Rev. Dr. Pio S. Tica, the senior pastoral staff and deacons have lined up exciting activities for the Silver Anniversary celebration: The Academy's Alumni homecoming on April 20, an Evangelistic "God is Love" Crusade from April 24 to 26 at 6 p.m.; a Worship celebration on Saturday, April 27 at 9 p.m. with Dr. Jim Norton of Michigan, USA, as guest speaker; a Thanksgiving Banquet on Sunday, April 28, 5 p.m. at Jade Valley restaurant, Timog ave., a free medical mission on Saturday, May 4 at 8 p.m.; a summer camp at Highlands Camp, Iba Zambales from May 6 to 10, and the fourth Mother's Day Food-tasting Event on Saturday, May 18 at 10 a.m.

All activities, unless otherwise stated, will take place at Malabon International Baptist Church #6 Ma. Clara st., Acacia, Malabon City. MIBC, will also dedicate the covered fellowship hall on the rooftop of its Worship center and launch the Silver Anniversary year book and memorabilia on April 28. Call Acela or Myrna at 288-1070 or 288-8274 or e-mail at mibc@I-next.net.

'Star for a Night' gets Saturday time slot

"Star for a Night" moves into a new timeslot starting tonight. The innovative talent show will now be seen at 8 p.m. every Saturday on IBC-13.

This Saturday's edition will see three soloists and one group competing for the P50,000 prize. They are Rina Natividad, 18 years old from Balintawak, Quezon City; John Mark Torres, also 18, from Olongapo City; Charmaine Dayrit, 12 years old, from Malabon, and the Charcoal Paint Band, from San Pablo City. The six-member pop group is made up of Jayvee Laroza, Xylyn Brion, Darwin Llamazares, Joanie Latadic, Jake Dann Punto, John Oswald Patines and Carmelite de Gorostiza.

Enchanted Kingdom

HOW MANY REASONS ARE THERE TO CELEBRATE THIS SUMMER?

Exactly 7! Because that's how old we'll be this summer. And to celebrate, we've thought up of 7 enticing treats just for you. So for 7 times the thrills, cap off your summer with a trip to Enchanted Kingdom.

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7th Fireworks Competition
This promises to be our most dazzling fireworks display yet. It features 7 top competitors lighting up the night sky for top honors.
May 4 7:00PM Spaceport
Brought to you by SMART

2
Jeff Simon's World of Magic
See some of the most spectacular and spell-binding feats performed by world-renowned magician, Jeff Simon. His show is one you'll have to see to believe.
April 28 3PM / 6PM Launch Pad
May 4 3PM / 6PM Launch Pad
May 5 3PM / 6PM Launch Pad
*Admission fee: P75.00
Brought to you by SMART

3
Mardi Gras Parade
The celebrations spill over into the streets with our first ever Mardi Gras Festival.
April 27 & 28 3:30/8:00PM Portabello
May 4 & 5 3:30/8:00PM Portabello

4
Dragon and Lion Dances
You're in luck! We're also featuring live and authentic Dragon and Lion Dances in the Park.
May 4 & 5 2PM / 3:30PM / 6PM Parkwide

5
Macau City of Culture
Experience traditional Chinese arts as artisans from Macau demonstrate their various crafts. A sweet maker, a caricature artist, a figure craftsman, a profile cutter and musicians will introduce to you their centuries old culture.
May 4 2-9PM Discovery Workshop
May 5 2-9PM Discovery Workshop
Brought to you by Macau Government Tourist Office

6
Lucky Visitor of the Day
Visit the Park on our 7th Anniversary Celebration and get a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." As such, you get Fast Passes for all rides, P700 in Wizard Money, a souvenir photo with the Wizard and Princess Victoria, plus ticket upgrades for you and your companions.

7
New Ride Opening
Starting May 1, one of our most thrilling rides returns to send you and the rest of the family on a trip into orbit. This time around, it's no longer "The Enterprise." What it's called, we'll let you decide.

That's not all!
Be part of our Flores De Mayo celebrations on May 4 & 5. Catch the DWTM Concert at the Park Bandstand on May 5. And experience all the rest of the thrills that'll be coming your way as we turn 7. See you there!

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Special thanks to: PEPSI Knott's The Manila Times

The Park will be closed on April 29, and on May 18 and 25 for an exclusive corporate booking. We are open on May 1 from 10am to 10pm. For inquiries on the complete Park schedule, please call 830-2111 to 17 or 843-6073 to 78.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Andrea Bocelli comes out with new album

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

LAUREL. Concert at the Fort.

ANDREA Bocelli's voice has made him a musical phenomenon, and his popularity allows him to fuse classical and popular music. Since 1996, Bocelli has sold 40 million albums. His latest album, "Cieli Di Toscana" ("Tuscan Skies"), conveys a range of emotions that illustrate the traditions that he values most, in a form of popular music that is contemporary but timeless.

Bocelli is excited by the prospect of his return to the sphere of popular music. "I have a large audience who have followed my career through the pop releases, but have not joined me in the exploration of the classical repertoire. I have a commitment, a responsibility to my audience. With 'Cieli Di Toscana' I'm returning to them with great enthusiasm."

"Cieli Di Toscana" sees Andrea working with a variety of songwriters and producers to create an album unique on the pop landscape. "The writers have sought to grasp my vocal characteristics and understand me, both as an artist and vocalist. We spent a lot of time considering many beautiful songs, in fact too many, because it was a real challenge to decide on the track listing.

"The final selections are all very inspired. Despite the vast amount of pop material that is released, it's difficult to find popular repertoire that will survive the passage of time. However with the songs on 'Cieli Di Toscana,' I hope I have achieved this," Bocelli shares.

Mudvayne releases new album

The latest album of Mudvayne, "L.D. 50" is savage, mysterious and unsettling. Their music has big riffs, serpentine rhythms and multi-dimensional vocals. They've titled their album "L.D. 50," a medical term used by pharmacologists to measure how toxic a substance is.

"It stands for Lethal Dosage 50, which represents how much of a chemical it takes to kill fifty out of a hundred subjects.

"The metaphor is that the things that can potentially open your mind, expand your consciousness and show you a new vision of yourself and the world have a risk and consequence involved. It's about how far you can push the envelope before it gets dangerous," Spag explains.

They perform with paint on their faces. They believe that it adds mystery to their music. Their musical attack is intricate and brutal.

"We try and bring a visual aspect to what we do, as long as our budget permits us to do it. The make-up thing was an impulse. It doesn't necessarily symbolize anything, yet it means something to us.

"I feel the same way about our music. It's up to the listener to come up with his own opinions about what it is we're doing," Spag clarifies.

Richard Gomez as 'S-Files' host

We stayed glued to our TV sets last Sunday to witness Richard Gomez's initial attempt at hosting a show business-oriented talk show. He's articulate, frank and intense. He can complement Paolo Bediones' safe comments and opinions and add spunk to Janice's calm and serene demeanor.

We hope that the show's succeeding telecasts will be as entertaining.

Richard claims that the move from his former network to GMA-7 was a tough decision to make. "*Matagal kong pinag-aralan ang gagawin ko.* It was a tough decision but I have to move on," Richard notes.

He has mellowed. Fatherhood suits him. He feels that his most important roles now is being a husband to Lucy, and a father to daughter, Julianna. Providing for their needs has become his top priority.

"I'm gentler and more understanding now that I'm a dad. I appreciate Lucy more everyday, because she gave me Julianna," Richard shares.

He admits that he has become more giving because Lucy continues to shower him with love, care and affection, even if she has to attend to the needs of Julianna.

"Lucy is very generous with her affection. She makes me happy

ANDREA/ P. D3

Santa Rosa's Lola Titay and her legacy

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

EVE Perlas de Jesus is one of the country's favored couturiers. She is known for her delicate children's dresses, ladies' beaded evening dresses, *ternos* and wedding gowns.

Eve was invited to present fashion shows in the USA, Japan, Indonesia and aboard the SSS Orzova. She put up a series of fashion shows for charitable organizations. On top of everything, she supplied ballet accessories like costumes, shoes, tights and leotards to ballet schools throughout the Philippines.

At 14, in Santa Rosa, Laguna, she started making baby dresses and, because of her workmanship, she become known, and she and her sisters opened a dress shop in Mabini. She attracted the elite crowd. Then she began making gowns and *ternos* for Santacruzans, fiestas, debutantes and brides.

Eve's Creations

Eve's Creations, as her shop was called (named after her daughter Eve), flourished from the 1950s to the early '90s. Due to the numerous clients and orders from both local and abroad, Eve had to open a branch at Filipinas Hotel along Dewey blvd., and another on Pennsylvania ave.

Eve's family of seamstresses, *burdadoras*, cutters and bead workers grew to about 50. Eve took care of designing, supervising and putting the gowns and dresses together, while her husband, Judge Amado de Jesus managed the business. They were an indefatigable team.

She was a society couturier, having done the wedding gowns of Nilda Yatco-Santos, Cecilia Lee-Tan, Myrna Tiongco-Peña, Doris Perlas-Tiongco, Trinidad Casas-Cuyegkeng and Cristina Villanueva-Manalo, among others.

Models

Among her noted models were Minnie Osmenia, Cynthia Ugalde, Amparito Llamas, Chona Kasten, Maggie dela Riva and Barbara Perez.

In celebration of Santa Rosa's town fiesta on April 30, "Baraka 2002" will feature foods and trades indigenous to the town, like *kakanin*, *pancit*, ice cream, shoes, bags and clothes at the patio of the Santa Rosa de Lima Parish Church. Honoring *Lola* Titay *aka* Eve, a photo-fashion exhibit of her works will be presented at the adjoining Parish Council Central for four days from April 27 to 30.

"Baraka 2002" is organized by the Tourism Council of Santa Rosa, the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa Centro and the Medical Society of Santa Rosa. It is open to the public from 3 p.m. to early evening. Call Randy at (049) 534-3775.

Weekly shoots

Mandy Navasero Batch 2002 'Learn By Doing' Weekly Shoots: Basic Photography April 17 to May 29 every Wednesday from 2 to 5 p.m. With Black-and-White Darkroom procedure.

Advanced Photography in color ongoing until May 18 every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. Introduction to Portraiture, Fashion and Glamour, Product Photography, Architectural, Travel and Food Photography using available light.

Registration ongoing at Dominga st., 1300 Pasay City. Tel nos. 522-1905/522-5189 Telefax 522-5185, CF 09163060841 or e-mail mn_photocom@I-manila.com.ph.

EVE'S wedding ensembles were elegant and were photographed in the famous studios of Manila.

EVE de Jesus-Perlas (right) with youngest child Eve, after whom the fashion house was named.

Andrea . . .

(From page D2)

because of the way she takes care of us," Richard beams.

Regine sings for the children

The big star that she is, Regine Velasquez always finds time to give back and share her blessings with those who need them.

"I'm aware that I've been singled out to be this fortunate, that's why I always have a ready 'yes' everytime someone asks me to sing a song or two for the benefit of this or that charity," she says.

On April 26, Velasquez topbills a concert for the abused children under the care of Bantay Bata Foundation, at the National Museum's grand entrance stairways. Ryan Cayabyab's highly touted San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra is backing Velasquez and her special guests Bituin Escalante, Carol Banawa and Ogie Alcasid.

Part of the proceeds will go to

ANDREA/ P. D6

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MERCURY DRUGSTORE, GLORIETTA	MAY 18-19	JERRY'S SHOPPERS, SURIGAO	APRIL 26-28
MERCURY DRUGSTORE, URBAN	MAY 20-21	ABSOLUTE ESS., SURIGAO	APRIL 30
MERCURY DRUGSTORE, DILIMAN	MAY 22-24	SOUTH MINDANAO	
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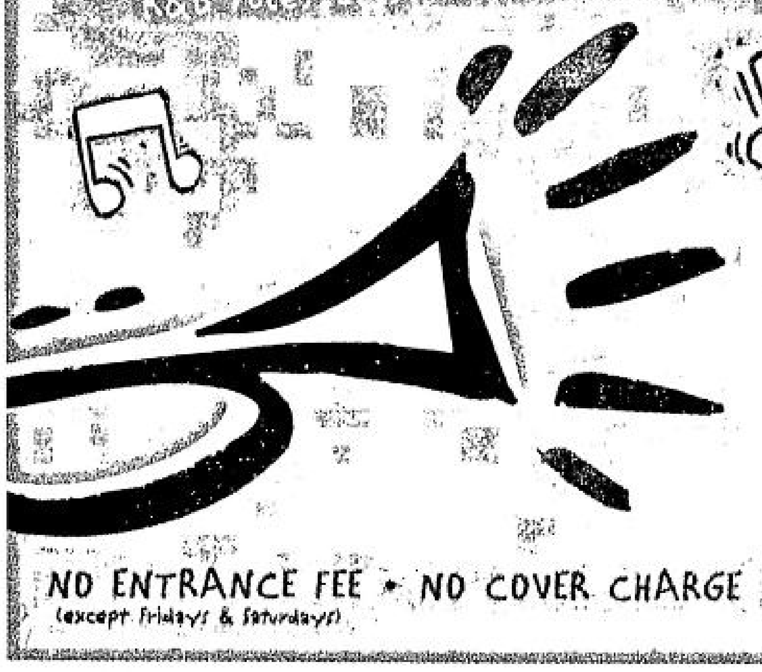

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DONITA'S latest yearning is to get a belly ring.

Donita Rose longs for an edgy image

By Edmund L. Sicam

MTV veejay Donita Rose and popular actor and hunk Jericho Rosales are the new celebrity endorsers of i2i Eyewear, known for inexpensive sunglasses and hip designs packaged innovatively in tin cans, plastic frosted canisters and wooden boxes. The i2i eyewear is distributed by the Astoria Group of Companies, headed by the husband and wife tandem of Ricco Ocampo and Tinna Maristela-Ocampo.

Image models

We talked to Donita at the press conference that launched the two actors as image models. She and Jericho will be doing print and billboard ads for the company for the next two years. She was clearly thrilled to be endorsing i2i, which reportedly gave her about 40 pairs of shades 'for all her MTV appearances.

Donita does not mind that she is endorsing an inexpensive product. "*Hindi naman sila mukhang* cheap, e! They have very good sunglasses, but yeah, they're very practical and affordable," she answers.

Donita belies the notion that she only goes for brand-name items. "Nowadays, we need to be more practical. Because I don't know how long I'm gonna last in this industry, *siyempre, nag-iipon na ako* for the future," discloses the pretty actress.

Childhood friend

Talking about the future, Donita hopes that the man that she will eventually settle down with will soon be coming her way. She disclosed that there is a very great possibility that she has already met him. Donita shares that the guy is a childhood friend who lives in San Francisco.

"I really like him a lot, and I know he likes me too now, but he lives in SF, so . . ." her voice trails off, "But I think that this could be it *na*."

According to the veejay, the guy has liked her for the past 14 years. "I never liked him before because he's a year younger than me."

She gave the first letter of the guy's name and eventually his first name, but she refused to disclose his family name. "Let's just leave it at that," she said with an embarrassed smile.

Long-distance love

But she did share how they finally got romantically involved. Last August, the guy came home to the Philippines and they spent a lot of time together. However, that whole time, she just treated him like a friend, although she admits, "I did kinda start to like him then . . ."

They communicate mainly through e-mail and the telephone. She shared her fears with us, however: "I'm afraid *kasi baka*, you know, you give your whole heart to that person, but it's long distance, so that's the situation right now."

Donita is also known for her wholesome image and her firm stance in living up to the Christian ideals that are part of her faith.

But sometimes, it is hard for Donita to be a role model for the youth, because it is difficult to reconcile the things she wants with the image she wants to project.

"A lot of times, I want to be edgy, I want to be like Destiny's Child and show cleavage and my belly—but it doesn't have to be *malaswa*," Donita says in her defense. She talks excitedly about this rock-hip-hop group, radical Christian but into secular music.

"They have tattoos all over their body, the lead singer has dreadlocks; (the fact that they are a Christian rock group is) subliminal, but it's still creating a big impact."

Debate

Donita's latest yearning is to get a belly ring, which has been the subject of a debate between her and her manager, Angeli Valenciano for a long time now.

But don't get her wrong. Donita still has her core values intact. For instance she thinks some of the music videos that are being aired now are too sexually-oriented. She cites the videos of George Michael and Britney Spears, which were recently banned on MTV.

"The Britney Spears video, I feel its whole theme is like an Ecstasy party. It's all about Ecstasy, and their all wanting to get water, and they're all sweating and they're lustful, and everything. I think that's too much!" she declares.

Dumas' swashbuckling tales remain filmmakers' favorites

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Alexandre Dumas' legacy of swashbuckling tales endures in scores of film and TV adaptations, even in the name of a candy bar.

Thirty-plus versions of "The Three Musketeers" have been made, about 20 of "The Count of Monte Cristo," and two in one year alone (1998) of "The Man in the Iron Mask."

Archaic style

At the same time, the writer's archaic style has lost the readership of many adolescents, and recent movie adaptations have struggled to freshen his tales of 19th century heroism with kung-fu and comedy.

A new version of Dumas' revenge tale "The Count of Monte Cristo" seeks to abandon such campiness in favor of the old-fashioned qualities that once made the writer a childhood favorite: swordplay, hidden treasures, sneering villains and damsels in distress.

"He's not part of the more intellectually prestigious authors of the canon, but . . . it's the 'cape and sword' big swashbuckling element that remains popular with the public," said Francoise Lionnet, professor of French studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Contemporary audience

The sweeping, melodramatic feel of Dumas' historical novels "naturally lend themselves to adventure movies," she said.

But makers of the most recent "Count of Monte Cristo" film found that adapting Dumas for a contemporary audience did require more than just staying true to the text.

To some extent, the gimmick in this film version may be its feminist tilt.

DOMINCZYK as Mercedes and Caviezel as Edmond in the latest film version of "The Count of Monte Cristo."

Jim Caviezel stars as Edmond Dantes, a wrongfully imprisoned man who escapes to seek revenge after 13 years and learns that his true love, Mercedes (Dagmara Dominczyk,) has married the man who betrayed him.

"I read the book when I was in high school, and I remember skipping over all the historic parts and all the action parts and just focusing on the romance and the love story," said Dominczyk.

But Dumas is notorious for his dainty female characters, powerless women who seemed like mere prizes for the manly heroes.

Modern moviegoers would chuckle at such a prudish heroine, Dominczyk said, which is why director Kevin Reynolds ("Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves") gave her room to play with the part.

"We had to embellish the romance," Reynolds said. "For it to work you had to feel like these two were in love. If you don't, you're not going to feel like he had his heart ripped out or understand his motivation."

Revenge

Dominczyk said she thought the story of betrayal, revenge and murder also needed a character who embodied purity of heart.

"It's such a dark tale and deals with brutal emotions and the plot is twisted, so Mercedes has to be the relief from all the testosterone," she said. "But she's not an innocent bystander either . . . She has a backbone."

The movie also features a happier ending than the book, and there are fewer killings—which renders the Edmond character more likable.

Caviezel said he studied the novel to prepare for the part, but found more inspiration from Dumas' actual life story.

The grandson of a Haitian slave, Dumas was born in 1802 to a mother who was a dressmaker and a father who was a general in Napoleon's army. He fathered three children out of wedlock, including "Camille" novelist Alexandre Dumas fils.

Despite his heritage, Dumas excelled in French high society and became a popular novelist and dramatist. He wrote hundreds of novels, often with the help of ghostwriters, but squandered his fortune, and his melodramatic writing style eventually fell out of favor. He died poor in 1870.

"Dumas had that 'I'm going to show you' attitude and so did his character Edmond Dantes," Caviezel said. "They were both always going back and forth between vengeance, love, power and hatred. It's a timeless tale."

Pulp novelist

Unlike William Shakespeare and Jane Austen, two other classic writers whose work is often freely adapted by filmmakers, Dumas was mostly scorned by literary critics as a pulp novelist.

Ironically, significantly rewritten film versions of Shakespeare and Austen's work usually fare better with film critics than such adaptations of the lesser-regarded Dumas.

A 1993 version of "The Three Musketeers" with Charlie Sheen and Kiefer Sutherland employed snappy one-liners, while last year's "The Musketeer" featured kung-fu fighting. A Dumas story of political intrigue, "The Black Tulip," was transformed into a little-seen fantasy about sorcery and comical animal sidekicks in a 1988 Australian cartoon.

Other Dumas films have made up for loose adaptations with sheer star power. Douglas Fairbanks Sr. chose a version of "The Man in the Iron Mask" in 1929 to end his action-film career, and teen-age girls were lured to a reworking of the same story starring heartthrob Leonardo DiCaprio in 1998.

French miniseries

Adaptations of "The Count of Monte Cristo" include a 13-hour BBC miniseries from 1964 and an eight-hour French miniseries from 1998 that starred Gerard Depardieu.

But short of that sort of time commitment, feature films have to cut significantly from the 1,100-page book.

The latest version drops a subplot about the Count's vigilante exploits and eliminates the character of Haidee, another love of the title character.

Reynolds said he learned from watching other Dumas movies not to use the clanging of swords as a crutch.

"It's too easy to say, 'Well, people get bored with period films, let's just give 'em more action,'" he said. "When it's just one fight after another, the movie turns into a lot of visual noise." ***AP***

No more birthday wishes for Ryan Agoncillo

By Jocelyn Valle

LAST April 10, Ryan Agoncillo celebrated his 22nd birthday on Channel 2's "Talk TV," his late-morning chat show with Christine Bersola and Julius Babao. One of his well-wishers, Fritz Infante (who directed "Keep On Dancing," where Ryan had a brief stint as a host), not only made fun of his non-existent terpsichorean skill; he also doubted his age.

Notorious

"I don't know why people don't believe I'm only 22," says Ryan, baffled. Maybe because actors are notorious for slashing a few years off their real ages to make them more accessible to the youth.

"But I'm not an actor!" he protests. Ryan may have been blessed with matinee-idol good looks (which helped him snag his first few gigs on TV as a commercial model) but he'd rather that people knew him for his wit, charm and gift of gab instead.

He was able to achieve this at age 19, when he became one of the hosts of "Mornings@gma," where he got the chance to do reporting (news and events) and interviews (of diverse personalities). Ryan got to spread his wings farther when he joined ABS-CBN a little over a year later.

Aside from "Talk TV," which covers pretty diverse and broad topics, Ryan also hosts Cinema One's "Review Night" (focusing mostly on films, music and performances) and Studio 23's "Explorer" (featuring mainly environmental matters).

Three-week break

Ryan has taken a three-week break since April 15. "No work at all!" he beams. "I have a lot of choices—I can go on a road trip with my friends on our bikes, or we can go out of town, or I can go out of the country with my parents. I just want to chill out."

Ryan stresses the last two words like a true hard working young urbanite. You see, since moving to Channel 2, he hasn't taken a vacation. It's been "absolute work" for him.

In fact, the time that we met him, just a few hours after his birthday bash on "Talk TV," he had a full day. Right after the live show, he interviewed Pops

AGONCILLO. Gift of gab.

Fernandez, then he did a voice-over for "Explorer."

Long day

We only got the chance to talk to him on the set of "Review Night," while his small-screen partner, Pia Guanio, was taping her segments. He looked dazed and spent, but he wasn't about to throw in the towel. It was going to be a long day. "After this, I'll tape a segment for 'Talk TV,'" he shares.

By sundown, he was ready to party. "But I can't stay up too late because the next day, *trabaho ulit*," he tells us, without complaints. Anyway, he adds, his friends had surprised him with an *asalto* on the eve of his birthday and "Talk TV" has feted him with a week-long celebration.

This year, Ryan found his friends' gift, a white Ducati biker's shirt with red stripes, really cool. He's a proud owner of a Ducati 996, that's why.

Full-body armor

Ryan's fans, fret not. Though he's not a veteran rider yet (he only started the hobby three years ago), he's a conscientious one. As a birthday gift for himself, he bought a full-body armor that pro bikers use to ensure their safety while riding.

In the near future, though, we could see Ryan in a sports car instead. "I've been saving up for it," he beams.

But, no birthday wishes for Ryan anymore. "Because there's nothing for me to wish for," he explains. "It's more for thanking now. With what I have right now, I'm happy."

Links between eye problems and headaches

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

DO you suffer from headaches? Here are a few interesting notes from the book "The Eye Care Revolution" that may give you a better understanding of this very common and painful problem:

Remote connection

"Headaches can start in the eye. They can also move down the body and cause pain in other areas, so we must look for the eye's remote connection to them. For instance, a stress headache can make you clench your teeth, causing pain in the jaw joint (TMJ), the neck, or the teeth themselves.

"Headaches can also be caused by a physical imbalance, like one leg being shorter than the other, or always holding your briefcase in your right hand, both of which cause the body's muscles to be stretched unequally. A headache can also result from having a leg or arm in a cast, from a pulled back muscle, or from wearing high-heeled shoes for long periods of time, which tighten the muscles in the body.

"Strobe lights or other visual effects may cause migraines or even seizures. In Japan, a 1997 TV cartoon broadcast featuring a strobe effect caused 700 child viewers to have seizures. Even fluorescent light can cycle at a rate that makes vision very uncomfortable. If you work in an environment with fluorescent light that gives you migraine headaches, you may want to ask your employer to change from fluorescent to phosphorescent lights, which are less likely to have this effect.

Different triggers

"In susceptible individuals, migraines can be triggered by many foods and beverages. Every person has different triggers; if you have migraines, a number of these foods may be triggers for you (or none of them may be). Some of the most commonly reported migraine triggers include:

"Sweets: Refined sugars, chocolate.

"Fruits and nuts: Carob, figs, raisin, peanuts, peanut butter, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, pumpkin seeds, bananas, avocados and tomatoes.

"Breads and cereals: Yeast, yeast breads, cheese breads, sourdough bread, doughnuts, granola breads, and cereals.

"Meat and dairy: Preserved meat, eggs, milk, butter, most cheeses, sour cream and yogurt.

"Beverages: Caffeine-containing drinks (coffee, tea and colas) and alcohol, especially red wine that contains sulfites.

"Chemicals: MSG (often found in Chinese foods and canned foods), oral contraceptives, estrogen replacement therapy, foods containing sulfites (like hot dogs and cold cuts), spices and fried foods.

"The following alternative migraine therapies are worth trying:

Spasms

"Magnesium helps to counter spasms of blood vessels and muscle cramps. It is prescribed by doctors to treat heart and blood vessel diseases.

"Herbs such as cayenne pepper, the bioflavonoid quercetin, and vitamin C can help prevent migraine recurrence.

"Try the Western herbs feverfew or stinging nettle. The active compound of feverfew (parthenolide) has been isolated, but in a study in which the active compound was compared to the herb, migraine sufferers preferred the herbal remedy now available at health food stores.

"This study should serve as a reminder that natural compounds like those found in the whole herb may be more effective because they contain many phytonutrients that may work together in ways we don't yet understand.

"By relieving tension, meditation and other stress-reduction methods can also be very beneficial in preventing migraine headaches.

"To treat migraine naturally, I recommend combining the three M's: magnesium, medical detective work, and meditation. The fourth M, medication, should be kept in abeyance to use as a last resort."

Options

We would like to add to the list the natural therapies of massage and acupuncture that help in relieving headaches and migraine attacks. These options should be explored and given a chance to work. So don't just pop a pill to solve a problem for which natural solutions have been provided.

'Nat Geo Max' launched

NATIONAL Geographic Channel has launched a new primetime program grid this month to boost "appointment viewing." The new primetime program grid groups programs by genres on weekdays. Heading the program strip is "Nat Geo Max."

"Nat Geo Max" will feature world exclusives, premiere series and award-winners. Marcia Goh, Vice President, Programming, National Geographic Channel Asia adds: "Nat Geo Max offers the very best, blue chip television on the National Geographic Channel. Viewers will be treated to larger-than-life TV powerful cinematography, unforgettable stories, and a great tune-in experience.

"'Nat Geo Max' will attract new viewers as well who may not be familiar with our Channel. If they tune in at 9 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays, we promise they won't be disappointed," she says.

Primetime hours from Monday to Friday will be scheduled in five one-hour strips housing five different themes—"On the Edge" (about adventure and exploration) at 7 p.m.; "Wild" at 8 p.m.; "Nat Geo Max" (a multi-genre strip featuring the best of National Geographic Channel) at 9 p.m.; "People and Places" at 10 p.m.; and "Sci-Files" (featuring science and technology) at 11 p.m.

Favorite programs

Goh said: "We feel that this new primetime programming schedule will make it easier for viewers to navigate and find their favorite programs. It will also help to facilitate habitual viewing."

'Nat Geo Max' premieres exclusives and award-winning, top-rating programs of varied genres such as "Adventures in Time" (featuring the best images through the years from National Geographic); "Great White;" "Deep Trouble;" "Wolves of the Sea;" "King Gimp;" "Avalanche: The White Death;" and "Myths and Logic of Shaolin Kungfu." The program block is expected to run through the year.

Robert Urich dies from cancer at age 55

By Greg Risling

LOS ANGELES—Television tough guy Robert Urich, an Emmy-winning actor best known for his starring roles in sleuth series such as "VegaS" and "Spenser: For Hire," died Tuesday of cancer. He was 55.

Urich died at a hospital in Thousand Oaks surrounded by family members and friends, publicist Cindy Guagenti said.

Chemotherapy

Urich announced in 1996 that he was suffering from synovial cell sarcoma, a rare cancer that attacks the body's joints. He underwent chemotherapy, radiation treatments and two operations in the mid-1990s to combat the cancer.

He earned his first television role in the 1973 comedy series "Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice." He also appeared in the TV series "S.W.A.T" before being cast as Peter Campbell in "Soap."

One of Urich's most recognizable roles came as private detective Dan Tanna in "VegaS," which ran on ABC from 1978 to 1981. His knack for solving crimes led to the starring role in another ABC detective series "Spenser: For Hire," which was based on Robert Parker's novels. That series aired from 1985 to 1988.

URICH. Became highly active in cancer research.

Wanderer

More recently, Urich appeared as a wanderer suffering from amnesia in "The Lazarus Man," and a wise-cracking talent agent on the short-lived NBC comedy "Emeril."

Urich sued Castle Rock Television, which produced "Lazarus Man," for nearly $1.5 million two years ago, claiming the show was canceled by the production company because he had cancer.

In July 1996, Urich told Castle Rock that he had cancer and would have to undergo treatment, but his lawsuit said he was able to perform under the agreement both parties signed. The breach of contract suit sought the amount, about $73,000 per episode, he would have received for the second season of "Lazarus Man."

The lawsuit was settled in February, but both parties agreed not to disclose terms of the settlement, a Castle Rock spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Born in Toronto, Ohio, Urich won a football scholarship at Florida State University. He later earned a master's degree in broadcast research and management from Michigan State University.

Urich briefly worked in Chicago as a radio sales agent and a television meteorologist. Burt Reynolds helped Urich land his first major role, co-starring as his younger brother in a stage production of "The Rainmaker."

Cable documentary

Urich appeared in several television miniseries and cable specials. He won an Emmy in 1992 for his narration of the cable documentary "U-Boats: Terror on Our Shores." That same year, he also won a Cable ACE award as host of the National Geographic series "On Assignment."

Other television credits include: "Crossroads," "Lonesome Dove," "Vital Signs," "It Had to Be You," and "The Love Boat: The Next Wave."

Among his film credits are starring roles in "Turk 182!" with Timothy Hutton and "Ice Pirates" with Anjelica Houston.

After his bout with cancer, Urich became highly active in cancer research, with him and his wife establishing the Heather and Robert Urich Fund for Sarcoma Research to accelerate the pace of research into sarcoma. Earlier this year, Urich donated the proceeds from his appearance on the game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" to a fund at the University of Michigan, where he was treated for cancer.

"Charge forward with hope and get the best medical advice you can," Urich urged an audience during a public speaking engagement last year in Wisconsin. "Talk to your friends, neighbors, family, and together you attack it. We can't always control what happens to us, but we can always control how we react to it."

He is survived by his wife; three children, Allison, Ryan and Emily; two brothers; a sister; and his mother. *AP*

Morgan Freeman reunites with Ashley Judd in new thriller

MORGAN Freeman ("Deep Impact") reunites with his "Kiss the Girls" co-star Ashley Judd ("Double Jeopardy") to defend her onscreen husband Jim Caviezel ("Frequency") in Twentieth Century Fox's new suspense-thriller "High Crimes."

FREEMAN. Likes to play "thinking" characters.

Lawyer

"This was my chance to play a lawyer with A.J. (Ashley Judd) and you know that's not something I'd readily pass up," Morgan says. "She actually called me first, and she said 'I'm doing this movie and there's a part I'd like you to consider." I said, 'Okay, consider it done."

Based on the novel by Joseph Finder, "High Crimes" is a mystery thriller that explores the controversial subject of secret military tribunals.

Claire Heller Chapman (Judd) is a high-powered defense attorney facing the toughest case of her career. She enlists the help of a former military attorney (Freeman) to help her defend her husband Tom Chapman (Caviezel), who has been charged by the US military with deserting his squad and committing war atrocities in El Salvador.

Challenge

"I Like to play any kind of 'thinking' character, who has to mentally put 2,3,5 and 7 together, you know, to see them," Freeman explains. "Get the 2 and then the 3 and the 5 and then the 7, and then people say 'Ah, he just got to 7!' How do you get across? That's the challenge I like."

As Claire gets more involved in the case, she discovers top-secret details about her husband's hidden past as a classified military operative. She also comes across disturbing evidence that may implicate him in a mass murder in Central America.

Beyond the suspenseful script, Ashley was obviously the big draw for Morgan. "She's got this steel trap mind! She's bright and has this sense of herself that is extremely refreshing," the legendary actor raved. "She's morally straight, spiritual, she's well raised . . . she is just a darling woman and real fun to work with, too!"

Third German Filmweek runs till April 23 at Shangri-la Plaza

"IS the Weakness of Men the Strength of Women?" is this year's theme of the 3rd German Filmweek in Manila, which opened to the public yesterday, April 19 at the Cinema 2 of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City.

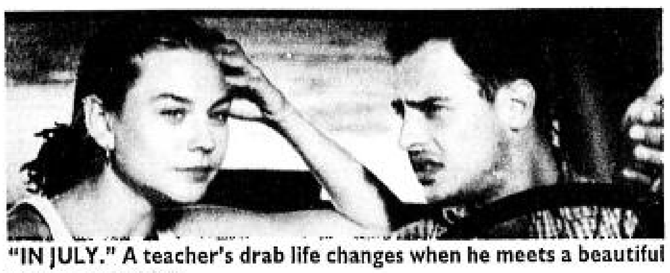
Until April 23, seven critically-acclaimed films from Germany will be shown (with English subtittles) with three screenings daily at 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Director

The film festival will be graced by Imogen Kimmel, director of "Secret Society," one of the featured films, and noted German film critic and director Christa Maerker, who has been working with the Berlin Film Festival since 1979, and has been responsible for choosing the films for the German Filmweeks here in Manila.

Kimmel's "Secret Society" (catch it on April 21 at 5:30 p.m.) is a film with good humor about being fat, love, Sumo wrestling, UFOs and the dream that everybody will get his chance.

Academy-Award-winning director Xavier Koller plunges viewers into the pleasure-craving, decadent world of the Berlin cabaret of the 1930s in "Gripsholm" (April 20, 3 p.m./ April 21, 8 p.m.). When Kurt, the Princess, Billie and Karlchen travel to Gripsholm, history and politics beat them in time: they have to decide which side to choose. Kurt, a well-known political and satirical writer knows his stand—but what is the prize?



"IN JULY." A teacher's drab life changes when he meets a beautiful girl named Melek.

"Conamara" (April 22, 8 p.m./April 23, 5:30 p.m.), is a love story that unfolds against the backdrop of everyday life in the remote landscape of the West of Ireland. Directed by Eoin Moore, the film tells of Axel who travels to Conomara and happens upon his past love, Maria who is married to Antaine. Their love is rekindled as they work together on a new business and eventually, Maria has to make a choice.

"Crazy" (April 20, 5:30 p.m./ April 22, 3 p.m.) is a story about good friends and first-time sex, about longing, dreams and the loneliness of young people facing the challenges of adulthood. This is the third feature film of director Hans-Christian Schmid who had his directorial debut in 1989 with the documentary "Sekt oder Selters."

Director Achim von Borries tells a touching story in the film, "England!" (April 23, 3 p.m.). Find out if adventurer Valeri Sikorski from Chernobyl ever made it to England.

Old friend

When the doctors tell Valeri that his days are numbered, he heads to England but first travels to Berlin to pick up an old friend he wants to take along. But his friend has disappeared and Valeri must look for him.

Fatih Akin's "In July" (April 20, 8 p.m.)/April 21, 3 p.m.) tells about a physics teacher named Daniel who wouldn't see happiness even if it hits him in the face. But his drab life as a teacher is about to change when he falls in love with a beautiful girl named Melek and spontaneously decides to follow her to Istanbul.

"The State I Am In" (April 19, 3 p.m./April 22, 5:30 p.m.) by Christian Petzold tells how Clara (born in hiding and is now 15 years old) tries to lead an almost normal life, which clashes with all necessity for secrecy (her parents Jeanne and Hans live underground).

Admission is P20. For inquiries call 633-7851.

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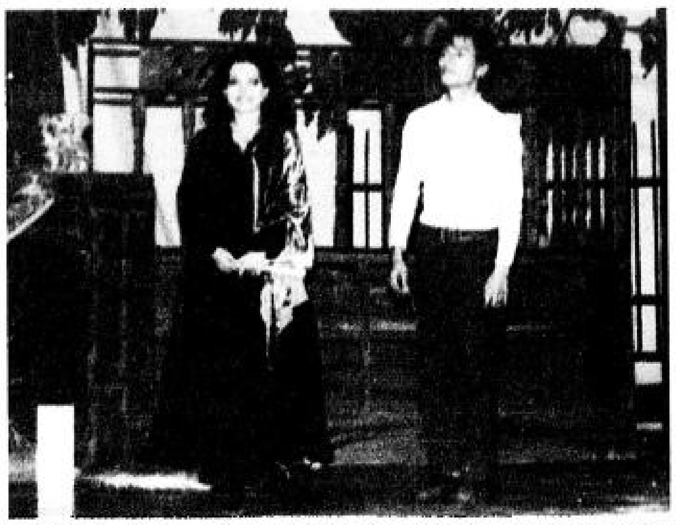
Tita Muñoz is back in her element

By Behn Cervantes

"SO, how is Tita now?" asked Norma Japitana, Norma J to her many friends in the entertainment world. Tita, on the other hand, is Tita Muñoz, one of the great ladies of the Philippine stage.

A mainstay on local radio right after the war, she appeared in films when movies were movies and acted in television primetime soaps. Playing matriarchs gives her the proper air as she portrays a snooty *doña* in "Sana Ikaw Lang Nga" on GMA Channel 7.



MUÑOZ and the author co-starred in a play, "No Sadder Race," in the early '70s.

Regal air

Even young viewers who do not know Tita Muñoz note that regal air, that precise and well-placed voice, that unmistakable old-school presence and indefinable class. Tita makes all these characteristics ever so palpable to viewers.

Well yes, how is Tita? I want to know myself. So do her other friends like Au Cobarrubias, Loly Mara and Nestor Torre, who did a number of plays with her decades ago.

This was that exciting period in the '50s when Manila was agog with the prospect of setting up professional Philippine Theater.

This was demonstrated by the dogged work of the likes of Bert and Daisy Avellana and their Barangay Theater Guild group, Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero at the University of the Philippines, Severino Montano at the Philippine Normal College, Nick Agudo and Sarah Joaquin in the Far Eastern University, and other pioneers like Naty Crame Rogers, Bert Cacnio, Manny Ojeda and Vic Silayan.

There was also the Manila Theater Guild that catered to the tastes of the expats and even an active Spanish theater group.

Final insights

Above all, there was the young Rolando Tinio who was injecting fresh insights, writing and directing plays that quickly made Ateneo a vibrant center of dramatic activity, not unlike the pre-war years when the youthful Bert Avellana and his friends were the center of the scene.

Manila was testing the great possibilities of the Stanislavski Method after exploiting the classic plays and styles that characterized pre-war productions. The post-war audience appreciated the unconventional but effective performances of Marlon Brando, Montgomery Clift and, soon after, James Dean. They best exemplified the Actors' Studio technique and approach as taught by drama guru Lee Strasberg.

There was dynamism on the Manila theater scene and there was conviction among this dedicated lot. Participants in the pioneering dramatic struggle to define Philippine Theater were embarking on demanding productions "for the love of it." Therefore, sacrifice, discipline and dedication were expected of them.

> She brings with her a sense of order, fine manners, finesse and gentility of the good, old days

Foundation

They gave without question. Such were the artists who prepared and put in place the foundation of Philippine professional Theater as we know it today.

Many of the pioneers truly thought they would not see professional theater set up in their lifetime, but they were wrong. They didn't realize how their love for theater would catch fire among the young or how their work would speed up development by leaps and bounds.

They unselfishly gave of their time, their sweat and, yes even their money, for often they would have to cover expenses for costumes and refreshments, not to mention the cost of transportation. But, sacrifice and dedication were expected so they gave unstintingly, with great love and fervor. Truly, they were an admirable lot.

Alas, today's young theater workers little realize their indebtedness to this admirable set of theater practitioners. Little do they realize how much they owe to this pioneering set.

Tita was in the midst of all of that. When a Broadway-trained American came with his Filipina wife, Tita was among those asked to join the group to better demonstrate the validity of the Stanislavski technique.

Celebration

Whenever she appeared in a play, it was time for celebration and it was certainly a cultural event we younger theatre buffs rushed to see. There was much to be learned from the likes of her.

For a number of years after that, Tita lived in Marawi and did her thing. Unfortunately, about 15 years ago she suffered a stroke that immobilized her. However, after a time when she was "doing nothing, absolutely nothing, going nuts and unproductive" she looked up to the heavens and asked, "What now?"

Not long after, a production manager mistook her for someone else she saw in Baclaran Church and recommended her during a casting meeting for a new soap. Tita's prayers were answered! But more trials came her way. She fell and broke her hipbones twice. How terrible, indeed.

But hey, Tita is of the old school, of the old values. When you stumbled, you stood up and got your act together. Don't forget, she has the pioneering spirit in her very bones. So, there she is back on Philippine television, playing a dowager and matriarch not unlike the memorable one played by Jane Wyman in "Falcon's Crest."

MUÑOZ. Whenever she appeared in a play, it was a cultural event.

As a respected pioneer of Philippine entertainment—radio, film, television and stage—what can she say about today's scene? "I don't know which way it is going. I see only old movies on television. I don't understand the people portrayed on television anymore."

Values of old

What does she miss? "Some kind of order . . . the values of old. I don't understand the writing. Where do the responses of the characters come from? I am not familiar with them. They are a bit alien to me, although technically, television is so much better."

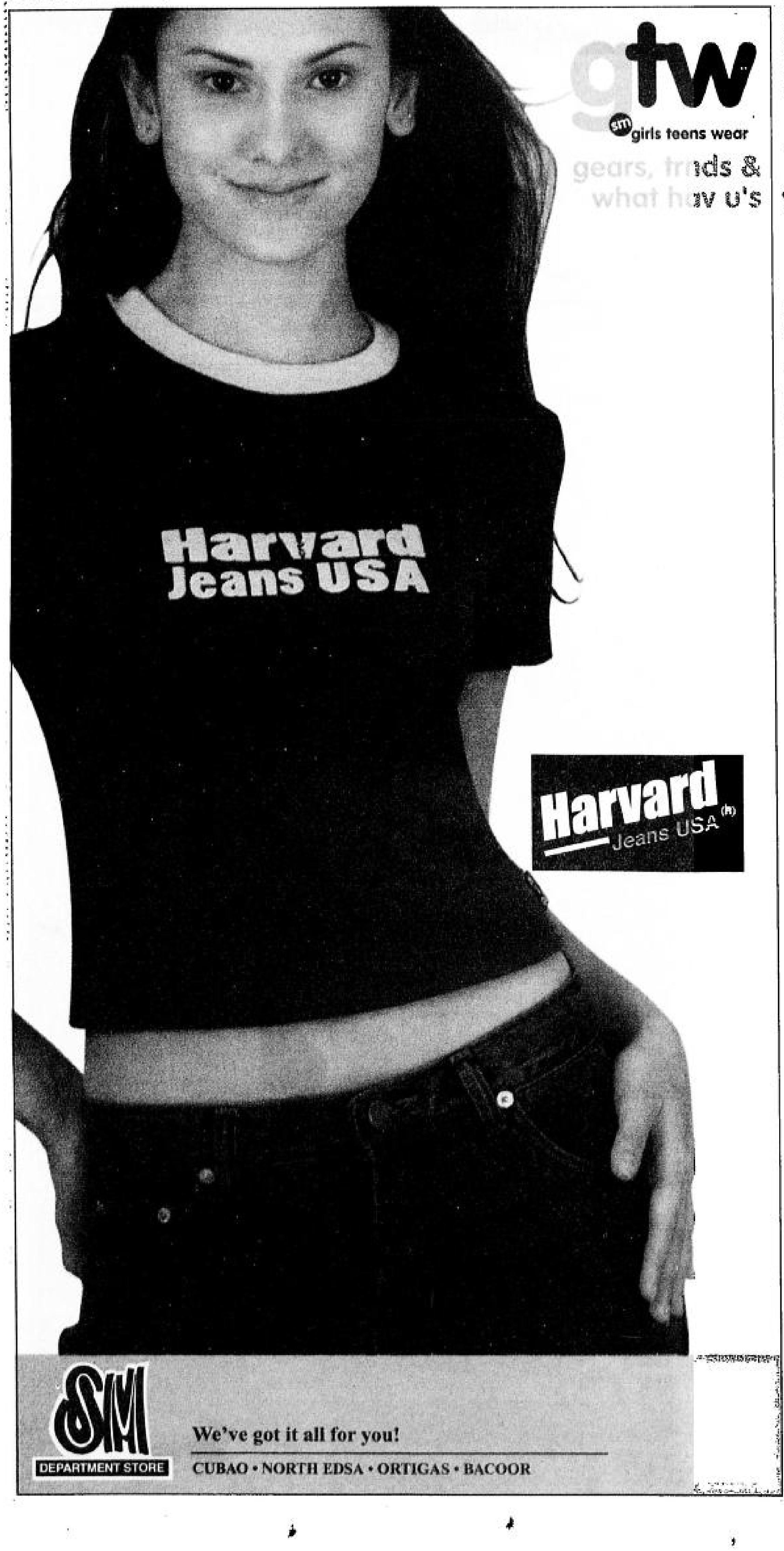
How about the youth ? "The young people today don't seem to know how to talk, how to explain their ideas. What are they?"

What else does she miss? "Ah, I miss the manners. The old traditional good manners, the finesse, the gentleness, the 'flowing' of a relationship."

With so much to say, will she go back to writing soon? "Yes . . . when things are in place . . . when I settle everything." I wanted to ask Tita when and what was "everything."

Never mind, I tell myself. Obviously, the grand Tita still has things to bake in her oven. I can't wait for the writing, though.

In the meantime let us be glad that Tita is back on television and in our midst once more. She brings with her a sense of order, fine manners, finesse and the gentility of the good, old days when people were connected and truly admirable. Philippine television is the better for it!



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Jeff Bridges as Starman, US president, psychiatrist

JEFF Bridges usually plays roles so disparate and distinct its hard to imagine him playing a regular guy.

He played a literally out-of-this world extra-terrestrial in "Starman," where he received Best Actor nominations for the Oscar and Golden Globes, an American president in "The Contender," where he received a best supporting nod from the Academy, and, in his new film, "K-Pax," he plays a pragmatic psychiatrist Dr. Mark Powell.

Eminently logical

The character of the eminently logical Dr. Mark Powell is haunted by dark fears for his patient Prot (Kevin Spacey), and is determined to use every tool at his disposal to discover this man's truth before its too late.

But as those tools fail him, Powell begins to doubt things he has accepted as true his entire life.

"When medications don't seem to have too much effect on this particular fellow who claims to be an alien, it intrigues my character and makes him more interested, both in his work and in his life," Bridges noted.

"Jeff is an actor who's got great humanity and is very empathetic," director Iain Softley ("The Wings of the Dove") said.

"He went into enormous detail about his role, really into the minutiae of his character. And it's a deceptively difficult role that takes great precision. Jeff modulated his performance, and at every moment there was a different nuance that he brought to the scene."

Aside from his Oscar nominations for "Starman" and "The Contender," Bridges was also nominated in Peter Bogdanovich's "The Last Picture Show in 1971, and in Michael Cimino's "Thunderbolt and Lightfoot."

Wide swath

Bridges' multi-faceted career has cut a wide swath across all genres. He has starred in numerous box-office hits including Terry Gilliam's offbeat comedic drama, "The Fisher King," with Robin Williams; as a big-time loser in the Coen Brothers' "The Big Lebowski;" the multi-nominated "The Fabulous Baker Boys," co-starring his brother Beau and Michelle Pfeiffer; opposite Glenn Close in "Jagged Edge"; in Francis Ford Coppola's "Tucker: The Man and His Dream;" "Blown Away," co-starring his late father Lloyd Bridges and Tommy Lee Jones; Peter Weir's "Fearless," with Isabella Rosselini and Rosie Perez, and Martin Bell's "American Heart," with Edward Furlong. That film earned Bridges an IFP/Spirit Award in 1993 for Best Actor.

BRIDGES. A deceptively difficult role.

Andrea . . .

(From page D3)

the National Museum which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Ayen's babies

Ayen Munji-Laurel is elated about the double blessing that she has received. First, her self-titled debut album has been launched and second, she's pregnant.

We remember late last year, Ayen used to refer to this album project as her "baby," telling us that while waiting to get pregnant, most of her time will be spent in making sure that the album comes out really good in both the creative and technical aspects.

We weren't disappointed with the songs we heard on Ayen's CD. It brings back the Pinoy pop-ballad sound that we have long been wanting to hear again, with a lot of easy-listening tunes and no-nonsense lyrics.

We wish both Franco and Ayen the best as they look forward to the arrival of the baby in October. The baby will be Ayen's third and Franco's first.

Cocoy Laurel still gets the jitters

He has performed for royalties and world leaders and sung in the best musical arenas of the world, but compleat artist Cocoy Laurel admits that he still gets butterflies in his tummy every time he performs onstage.

"I always am worried that my voice will not be at its best range, that's why I tell all my friends and family members to pray hard for me everytime I have a performance. One cannot just bank on past glories and achievements," he sighs.

This humility has endeared Cocoy to many who considers him one of the most gifted artists we have. He also paints and spends a lot of time in prayer and meditation.

On April 26, Cocoy is mounting a rare solo concert at the Fort's NBC Tent.

The show aims to chronicle the artist's personal and artistic journey, with Cocoy singing some of his favorite songs. Billed "Journeys of My Heart," the show has Ian Monsod as musical director.

New 'public enemy' in movies and on TV: Big Medicine

By Theresa Agovino

WASHINGTON. The kindest vigilante in movie history.

NEW YORK—Murderers. Drug lords. Hospital administrators.

There's a new villain in Hollywood.

Transplant operation

In the movie "John Q," a bureaucrat refuses to place the title character's son on the list for a donor heart because his family can't afford the $250,000 transplant operation. The boy's loving father, played by Denzel Washington, becomes a vigilante, taking the hospital's emergency room hostage.

Despite the melodrama and wild exaggeration of what patients and their families face, "John Q" resonates because we know the bad guy, too. We may not have a dying child, but who hasn't had a health care claim denied? Who hasn't worried about losing their job-based health insurance? Filled an outrageously priced prescription? Or endured the rushed advice of a condescending doctor?

In a society where an estimated 45 million people have no health insurance, at least 39 million are underinsured and health care costs are primed to jump—once again—roughly 16 percent this year, anyone who takes on Big Medicine makes a great hero.

It's not just happening in movies. In hit television shows and best-selling books, the enemy these days is as likely to be the maker or dispenser of legal drugs as illegal ones.

Critical mass

"Consumer concerns about health care and drug costs has reached a critical mass. Popular culture responds to changes and concerns in peoples' attitudes," said Robert Thompson, a professor of media and popular culture at Syracuse University. "Dealing with health care is an experience everyone has. It gets deep into our emotional being."

> 'John Q' director Nick Cassavetes says his movie addresses an important issue but shouldn't be seen as an apology for violence

Money-hungry pharmaceutical executives take the place of Communist spies in John Le Carre's most recent novel "The Constant Gardner." Three people are murdered on behalf of a drug manufacturer because of a plan to expose a medicine that was killing patients in Kenya. The plot was inspired, in part, by Africans' inability to receive AIDS treatment because of patents issues and high prices.

Last month, on TV's "Law and Order," a father kills a health insurance executive who denies authorization to pay for a very expensive drug that could save the man's dying daughter. The program ends with a hung jury.

Another show, "ER," has its hero doctors. But a recent episode highlighted questionable marketing practices of drug makers. A pharmaceutical company sends free food to the hospital, and a doctor chastises her colleagues for eating it, suggesting the freebees could influence prescribing habits. A plot twist: those who dig in get food poisoning.

Simplistic pandering

The health industry, which must be pining for the good old days of Marcus Welby M.D., dismisses the new Evil Medicine story line as, at best, simplistic pandering. At worst, they say, it is an incitement to violence.

Still, the American Association of Health Plans, a Washington, D.C.-based trade organization, opted for damage control. On Friday it is launching an advertising campaign to divert the anger away from the medical profession and toward other popular targets: politicians and lawyers. The ads say runaway litigation and government regulation contribute to skyrocketing health care costs and the growing number of uninsured.

Karen Ignagni, president of the organization, also noted that "laying down violence as a solution is completely irresponsible in light of what this country has been through."

"John Q" director Nick Cassavetes said his movie addresses an important issue but shouldn't be seen as an apology for violence.

"We don't want people using guns to get what they want. It is wrong. John Q should go to jail and he does," Cassavetes said.

"We are facing an immediate crisis that we need to address before anything bad happens," he said. "Once only the rich can afford health care, the poor are going to start making some noise so better we hear it now."

Heart disease

Cassavetes was drawn to the script because his 13-year-old daughter has heart disease and will eventually need a heart transplant. "I would pray I would never do what John Q does, but if someone could help my daughter and refused, well, those people would have a very serious problem on their hands," he said.

Not that you could tell by the movie, but Cassavetes said his experiences with the health care system have been reasonably good. He has excellent insurance, he said, and certainly can afford out-of-pocket costs.

He's no John Q, a factory worker whose insurance doesn't cover transplants. Even when he sells everything he owns and his church pitches in, he can't afford the operation.

John Q has to be the kindest vigilante in movie history. It's the doctors who are portrayed as greedy, failing to conduct tests to secure big bonuses from HMOs.

Anne Heche, as the cold-hearted hospital administrator, may be the nastiest health care official we've seen since Nurse Ratched in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." Her worldview: People get sick.They die. That's the way it goes.

Drug

The "Law and Order" episode focused on an actual drug called Gleevec. Hailed as a breakthrough cancer treatment when it was approved last year, the drug costs between $2,000 and $2,500 a month.

The episode does its best to portray the slain insurance executive as a man trying to give care within the confines of his company's resources. But the father who kills him also is portrayed sympathetically.

"I didn't want to indict the health insurance industry," said the show's head writer, Barry Chindel. "The industry has to say no sometimes. If there is only $1 you can only spend it once. Sometimes people get the short end of the straw." **AP**

'Clockstoppers' is a pleasant cinematic surprise

By Malcolm Ritter

NEW YORK—"Clockstoppers," about a teenage boy who gains the ability to move swiftly and invisibly through his surroundings, is an entertaining, pleasant surprise.

Premise

After all, with a premise like that, you might expect the young man to use his fantastic power for spying on girls or making trouble for his teachers.

And you might begin to roll your eyes as you meet the family, which features the familiar strict-and-distracted father, frustrated son, cheeky kid sister and understanding mother.

But stop rolling those eyes and keep them on the screen.

Soon you'll discover a very good adventure movie, with two admirable teen-agers rather than the schemers you've encounter in movies like 1982's "Zapped!" in which Scott Baio uses his telekinetic powers for mischief or 1985's "Weird Science" in which two geeks create a beautiful woman on their computer.

Zak Gibbs (Jesse Bradford from "Bring It On") stumbles onto a device his scientist dad had been studying, a wristwatch that sends the wearer into a super-speedy version of reality.

When Zak activates it, the rest of the world seems to stop moving. And to the rest of the world, Zak is invisible because he's moving so fast.

Exchange student

He soon draws the beautiful and self-assured exchange student Francesca (Paula Garces) into this sped-up experience, and they right a few petty wrongs and help a friend pull off some incredible moves at a dance party.

But danger awaits. The evil head of a high-tech company, Henry Gates (Michael Biehn of "The Terminator" and "Aliens") has been trying to develop the technology for his own nefarious ends. Gates kidnaps Zak's father and forces him to work on the project. So Zak and Francesca rush to rescue him.

One big reward of the movie is the striking way it portrays the view of the ordinary world from the super-speedy mode. Papers thrown into the air just freeze. Water from a lawn sprinkler stands like a beaded curtain. Zak notices the slowed beating of a bee's wings—showing that the outside world hasn't really stopped, but merely slowed to a barely perceptible crawl.

Director Jonathan Frakes, who played Cmdr. William T. Riker on the TV series "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and directed several episodes as well as the movies "Star Trek: First Contact" and "Star Trek: Insurrection," keeps the story itself moving quickly.

And it's all complemented by a soundtrack that includes MTV regulars such as Smash Mouth, Sugar Ray, Blink-182 and Nickelback.

Rescue effort

The screenplay by Rob Hedden, J. David Stem and David N. Weiss occasionally disappoints. The villainous Gates seems to work overly hard to remind us that he's evil. And when a former student of Zak's father who's been helping in the rescue effort (French Stewart from television's "3rd Rock from the Sun") chickens out at the last second, it's tough to be surprised when he shows up again at a very opportune moment.

But these are small flaws.

This is a fun movie that will appeal to older children, teens and their parents.

The film from Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies runs 94 minutes. **AP**

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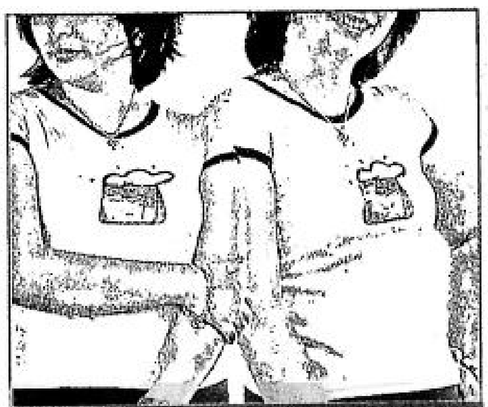

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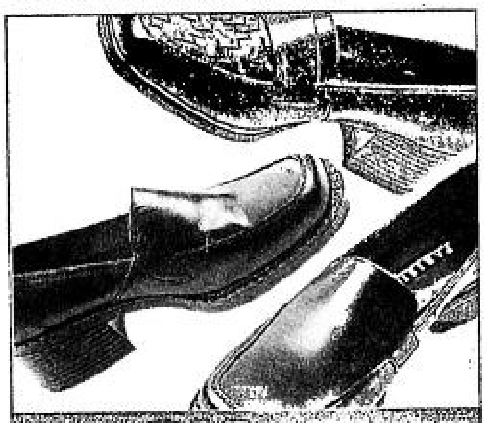

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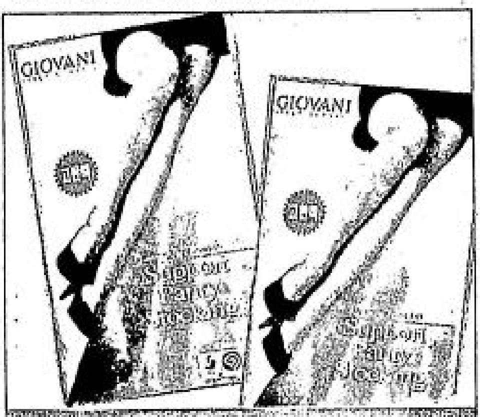

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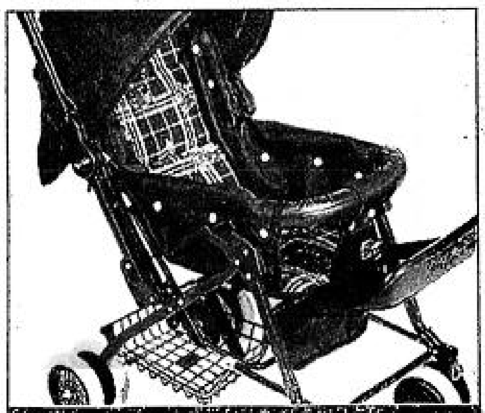

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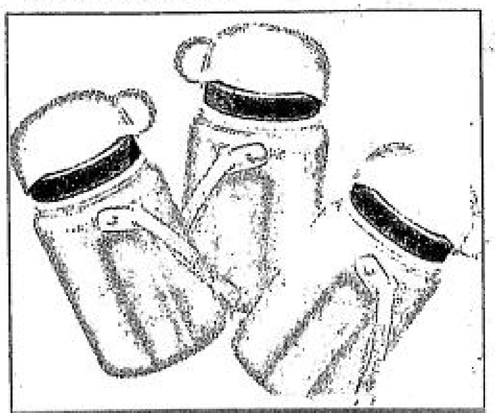

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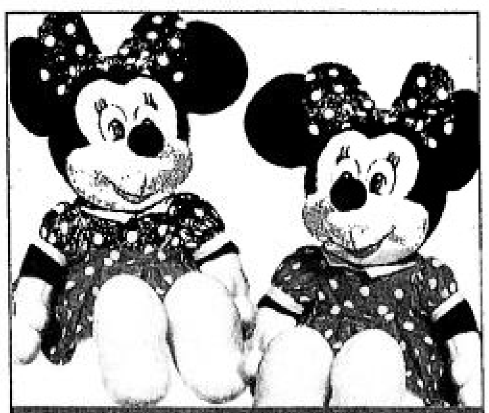

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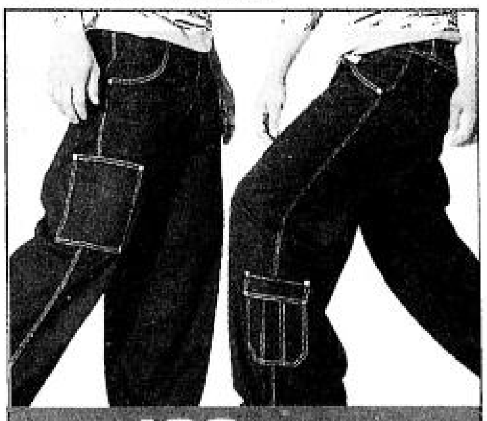

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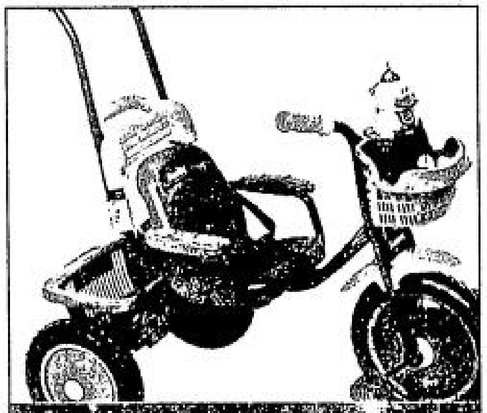

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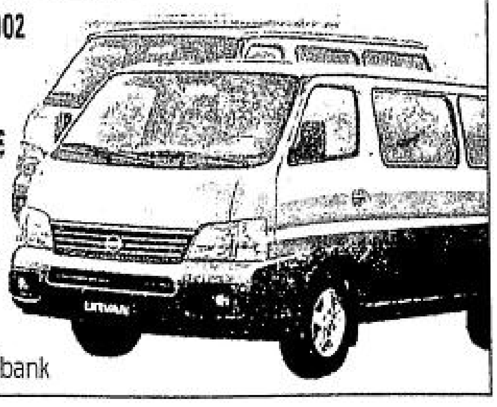

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Canada's Hayden Christensen is Hollywood's new golden boy

By Nestor U. Torre

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HAYDEN/ p.E2

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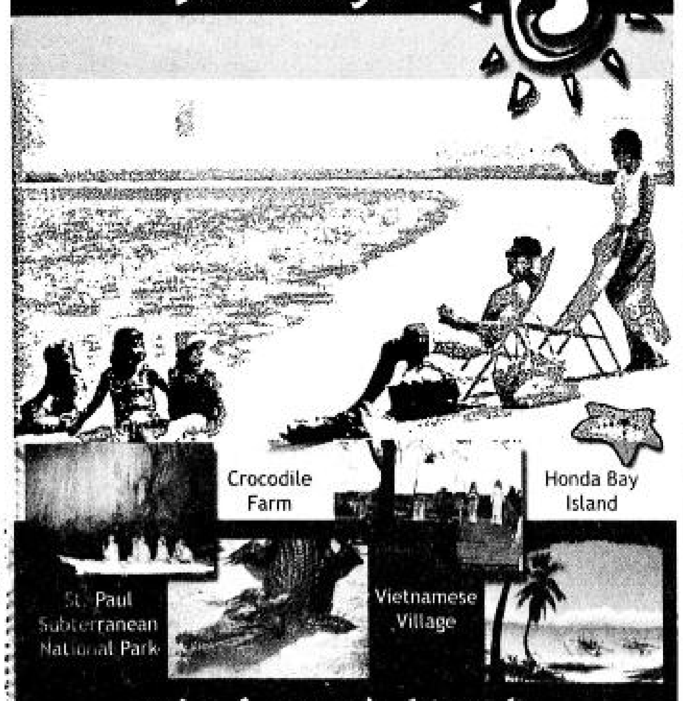

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HAYDEN/ p.E2

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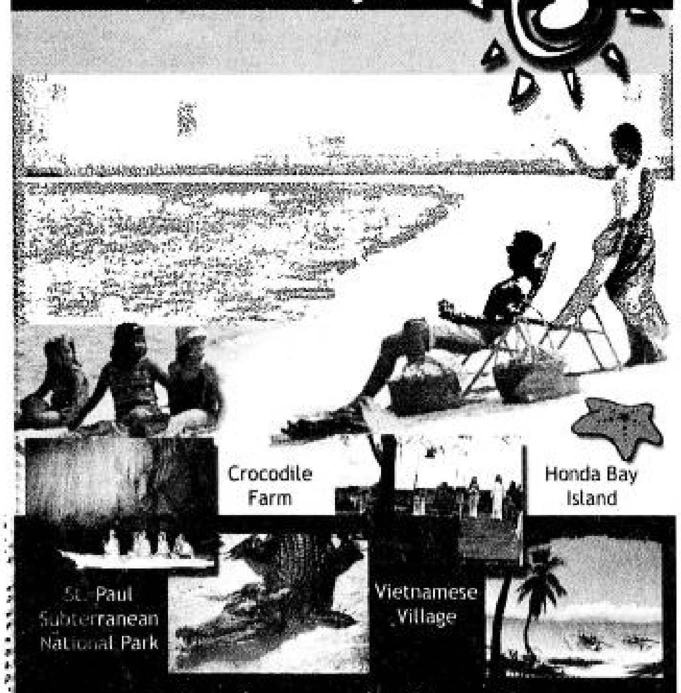

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Mossimo Bikini Summit' unfolds today in Boracay, airs May 10

By Edmund L. Sicam

A GOOD sign that summer is definitely here is the proliferation of bikini contests on stage and on television. One of the more established ones because it has a reputable sponsor behind it is the "Mossimo Bikini Summit," which unfolds today at the Pearl of the Pacific in Boracay with the TV coverage airing on May 10 at 10:30 p.m. on ABC-5.

Before the 24 candidates—12 males and 12 females—flew to the island, the press was treated to fashion show where they paraded in figure-revealing bikinis.

The male finalists are: Alex Lee, Douglas Robinson, Mark Hernandez, Jordan Hermogenes, Mark Lowie Lopez, Denny Ngo, Randolf Stametelaky, Gabby Torente, Resty Dimalanta, Warly Agalut, Carlo Maceda and Edward Mendez.

The female finalists: Elaine Suizo, Susan Ocson, Charish Fajardo, Ritchie Bingcang, Linda Marie Beehler, Bernadette Camañag, Paula Joy Cusipag, Edilyn Santillan, Danika Joy Murphy, Sarah Jane Gomez, April Tanhueco and Josephine Castillo.

Among the female bets, the following caught our eye:

Elaine Suizon, 18, a masscom student at PUP, is active in campus theater and has appeared in a play on Andres Bonifacio. She is also a good singer and dancer. Although the field of show business is something she'd like to try, she'd like to finish her college course first.

Edilyn Santillan, 18, a computer student of Southern Luzon College in Dasmariñas, has a voluptuous figure that would look good onscreen. In fact, she's already done a commercial for Ginebra San Miguel but she would rather not do bold roles at the moment.

April Tanhueco, who turned 18 the day we spoke to her, has impressive credentials, She not only has a whistle-bait figure, but she also graduated valedictorian from her high school in Zambales. She wants to take up masscom in college.

The finals will be emceed by Nina Ricci Alagao, former Bb. Pilipinas Universe, TV host Manny Distor and Geoffrey Briz, a Filipino-Australian model.

SUIZO. Studies first before show biz.

SANTILLAN. No to bold roles in movies.

Cocoy Laurel's blessings

Cocoy Laurel, who will have a show on April 26 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio, calls it a thanksgiving concert for all the blessings he has received in his life. He told us at a press lunch at his residence that he has led a charmed life and looks at his achievements in the world of theater, the movies and music as things he did not aspire for. The opportunities came along at the right time.

Cocoy is much too modest to admit that the blessings came because of his many talents as an actor, singer and painter.

He still recalls his first stage appearance in William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" when he was still in school. He never realized that many, many years later, he would pass the auditions for "Miss Saigon," working his way up from the chorus to the role of assistant commissar and finally to the coveted role of The Engineer in the Australian production of the Cameron McKintosh musical.

Yet, despite his success in Australia, where he did 500 performances, Cocoy did not hesitate to leave the production when his father, former vice president Salvador Laurel asked for his help in promoting the celebration of the Philippine Centennial.

His concert is called "Journeys of the Heart." "The songs that we have chosen for the show reflect the journeys—emotional, intellectual, spiritual—that I've taken all these years and the wisdom I have gained along the way. It is my hope that my audience will come away with a little of what I've taken from those journeys."

The show is directed by Douglas Nierras with Ian Monsod as musical director and Leo Rialp as stage designer. In planning the concert repertoire, Douglas asked Cocoy to veer away from Broadway tunes since that's what Cocoy is known for. Instead, he'll be doing numbers like Tina Turner's "What's Love Got to Do with It?" the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby" and even Bodgie Dassig's "Sana Dalawa ang Puso Ko" as far away from Broadway as you can get!

However, he managed to include "I"ve Never Been in Love Before" which is from "Guys and Dolls." He thinks Douglas doesn't know it's a Broadway song. We suggested that he also include "Woman in Love" from the same musical, and he told us he just might put the song in. "Guys and Dolls " is memorable to him because he came out as Nathan Detroit in the musical a long time ago.

Hayden . . .

From page E1

Gooding, Jr.

Hottest male comer

This week, we shift our focus to the hottest male comer in films this season, Haydem Christensen.

Christensen is the movie world's new golden boy, thanks to his having been tapped to play the young-adult Anakin Skywalker (and future Darth Vader) in two "Star Wars" prequels (Episode 2, "Attack of the Clones," and Episode 3).

The young Canadian actor's victory over 400 other hopefuls was made even sweeter by the fact that some of those auditionees were already stars in their own right—in fact, one of them was *the* Leonardo Di Caprio!

Teenager

So, why didn't George Lucas cast Leonardo as Anakin, and be done with it? Because Anakin in Episode 2 had to look like a teenager, and Leo, for all of his talent and popularity, just can't manage that anymore.

So, Hayden is the great, big discovery of the moment and, all of a sudden, his days are a continuous whirl of work and more work.

The difference is, it's all done in the public eye, so the trick for Hayden is to make it look like play. That *must* be why movie stars are paid so much money, because they have to make all that show biz drudgery look like empathetic fun.

Essential

To sustain the aura of mystery and mystification that George Lucas believes is so essential to the ethos of his sci-fi spectaculars, little has been revealed about Episode 2. All we know is that it begins 10 years after the concluding events in "The Phantom Menace" (Episode 1), and the galaxy has undergone significant changes.

Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor), Padmé Amidala (Natalie Portman) and Anakin Skywalker are thrown together for the first time since the Trade Federation's invasion of Naboo. As conflicts escalate and become increasingly more complicated, these lead characters face choices that will impact on the destiny of the entire Republic.

Laconic

Hayden's bio and filmography are similarly laconic. His first dream was not to become an actor, but to play professional hockey or tennis. But his plans changed when he accompanied his sister to a meeting with a prospective agent, and the talent scout signed up *both* of them!

The young actor first appeared in movies like "The Virgin Suicides," "In the Mouth of Madness" and "Strike!," but he really got viewers to notice him when he played a regular role in the TV series, "Higher Ground."

Drug addict

Hayden is expected to hit it big in "Attack of the Clones," but he isn't about to become typecast in Anakin-type young-hero roles. To make sure that doesn't happen, he plays a drug addict in "Life As a House," the film that he shot after "Clones."

His determination to expand his range as an actor might just save him from the predictability that has hounded the careers of other golden boys in Hollywood, like Ryan Phillipe and, yes, Leo Di Caprio.

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ALBUM REVIEW

'Closer to Home' pays tribute to Filipino musical artists

By Leia Torre

THE album "Closer to Home" is an all-Filipino-artist Crossover collection that is meant as a declaration of support by 105.1 Crossover and the Viva Music Group for the talent of the Filipino artist. Its 14 selections feature Zsa Zsa Padilla, Janno Gibbs, Tony Maigue, Channels, Ivy Violan, Passage, Jaya, Regine Velasquez, Freestyle, Gerry Paraiso, Parliament Syndicate, Agot Isidro, Menchu Apostol, and Ella May Saison.

Love songs

All of the selections are love songs, and were chosen to create a sound that is reminiscent of the one we hear when listening to 105.1. The songs are mostly upbeat, with a few slower numbers to provide a welcome change of pace.

"Hurting Inside," performed by Tony Maigue, is instrumental all the way. It is evocative and manages to express the conflicting emotions bottled up when a person is aching from within.

"You," performed by Gerry Paraiso on the piano, is an instrumental version of the popular song that many a lovesick person can relate to.

Grand manner

"Clair" by Menchu Apostol, commences in a grand manner before launching into its main theme. Although a bit repetitive, slight variations save it from becoming tiresome.

"Last Night I Didn't Get to Sleep at All," performed by Zsa Zsa Padilla, is a fast-paced song that conveys the message that love is capable of wreaking havoc on a lover's schedule by upsetting the natural rhythm of his body, which is what happens when one does not get any sleep.

"Almost Over You," performed by Janno Gibbs, is another such high point. It is very emotional, dealing with one of the most painful aspects of love, the post-break-up, almost-recovered phase. Janno manages to make the "martyr" in the song almost heroic.

PADILLA AND GIBBS. Featured in Crossover collection.

> The album succeeds in dramatizing the different aspects of love. The diversity of the performers makes it a musical treat

Vocal acrobatics

Jaya, likewise, does not disappoint us in her song, "I Won't Let You Go Again," which she sings very eloquently and dramatically. She performs acrobatics with her voice which never fail to impress.

Regine Velasquez' "Emotion," in contrast, is lightly sung. There is little here of Regine's characteristic high notes hit several times in succession, and that's a refreshing change.

Other numbers: "I'm So Sorry" by Channels, "Why" by Ivy Violan, "You Won't See Me Crying" by Passage, "Treat You Right" by Freestyle, "Lovely Day" by Parliament Syndicate, "Loving You" by Agot Isidro, and "Too Much, Too Soon" by Ella May Saison.

All things considered, the album succeeds in dramatizing the different aspects of love. It is also a worthy accolade to the Filipino musical artist. The diversity of the performers featured in the album makes it a musical treat.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0824, Series of 2002

Ladine Roxas has an international album

By Edmund L. Sicam

ROXAS. Major solo concert at Captain's Bar on April 26.

SHE started out in the business as Geraldine Roxas, her full name. But people started thinking she was another Geraldine making a comeback in music, so Geraldine became Ladine Roxas, and the name has stuck.

Winner

Ladine won last year's Voice of Asia (VOA) singing contest held in Kazakhstan. That led to a three-year contract with a record company based in the UK called Candid. She's launching her album not here, but in London, and will be touring Europe for a couple of months. The album's launch is set for June 2 at the Equinox Discotheque, right in the heart of London's Leicester Square.

But before she does all that, she's going to have her first major solo concert on April 26 at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. The concert is titled "Under My Spell". The concept is Ladine's. "I'll try to mesmerize my audience..." she says.

Music video

Another treat for the audience will be her performance of cuts from her international album, complete with a screen showcasing her MTV as she performs the song live. They have also hired magicians, to add to the entire concept of magic and spell-making.

Does Ladine believe that music can cast a magic spell? Can you make a person fall in love with you by just singing? "*Alam mo,* proven *yan.* Because I started singing sa mga lounge. And after *mga* performances *ko, lumalapit sila, tinatanong nila kung paano ko ginagawa yun. Parang na-iin*-love *sila sa akin. Parang kinakarino ko daw sila.*"

Carrier single

Her first international album, "How Can I Make You Love Me", features the carrier single of the same title. It's available on line, for those who want it here, but it will be released to the lucky people in Europe first. Apparently, Candid has a different tactic - after three months of her European tour, the album will be released here.

Ladine has every reason to be thrilled, because she's the first Filipina to record for Candid Records. She was in London for 10 days last December, and met with the president of the company, who gave her a contract to sign—three years, three albums. "How Can I Make You Love Me" is the first one. It was recorded in Sydney, mixed and remastered in America, and will first be distributed in London. Truly an international album.

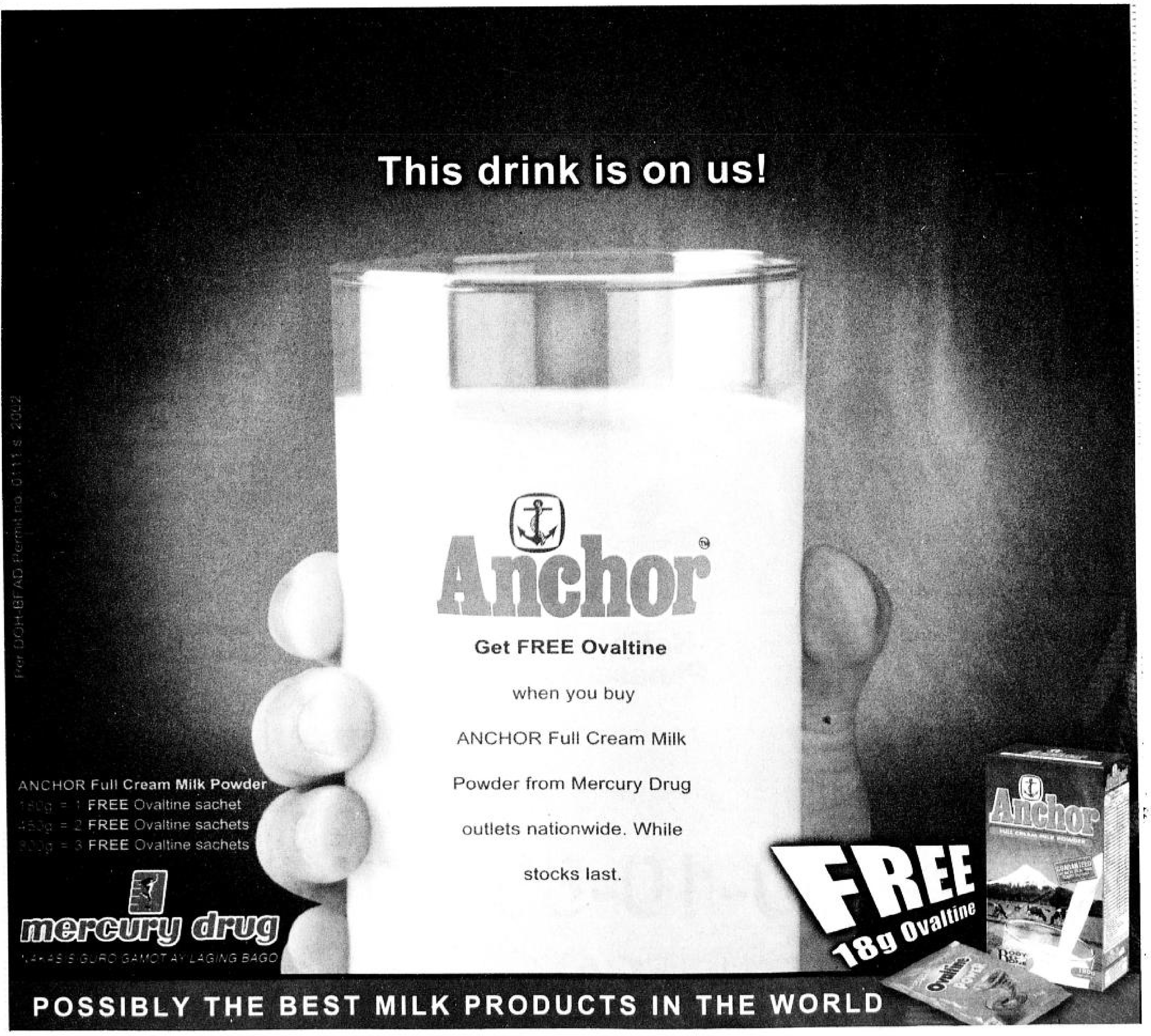
> The album launch is set for June 2 at the Equinox Discotheque in London's Leicester Square

Ladine has been a recording artist for four years now – she started professionally in 1998.

Lounge acts

But before that, she did the lounges, starting with Kalesa and Siete Pecados—at the same time as she pursued her certificate in Fine Arts.

Even as a child, she says, she was already exposed to bands because of her cousins' friends. She would jam with them during their rehearsals, and when they'd perform, they'd call her onstage. "*Doon ko nalaman may* calling *ako* for that. "I *love* to perform. *Kahit sa* rehearsal, *linalagay ko na yung* heart and soul *ko doon.*"



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Viggo Mortensen, 'LOTR's' older heartthrob

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

From the pre-pubescent stars of "Harry Potter" to the lovable elves of "The Lord of the Rings," celebrity forums and entertainment websites are constantly besieged with requests for information about them. This week, however, we would like to give way to the more mature set of Potter and Froddo afficionados. We also cater to the forty-something (and older) set—people who find Viggo Mortensen's intense and guilt-filled stares more interesting than Potter's bespectacled hero or Elijah Wood and Sean Astin's characters' hairy, short legs.

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Showbiz Q&A, Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

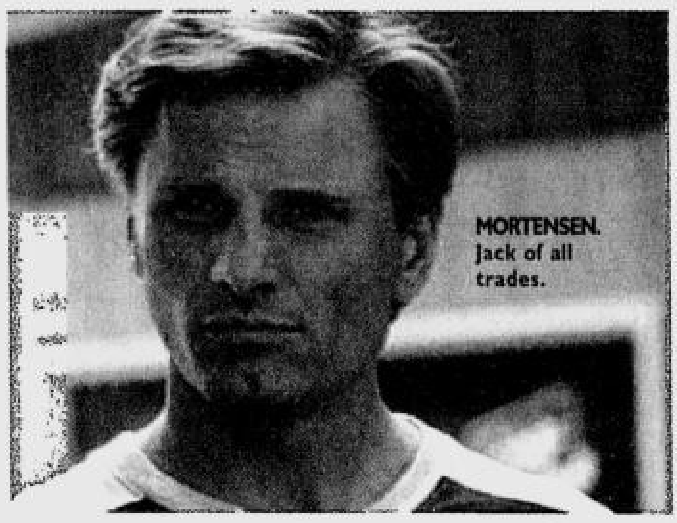
"Enough with the hobbits! If you are going to feature 'The Lord of the Rings,' can you feature the hunky good actor Viggo Mortensen, instead? He's American, right? But what's with the peculiar family name?– *Josie Verde, Marikina City* Yes, Viggo *is* American. He was born in Manhattan, New York on Oct 20, 1958 to an American mother and a Danish father (which explains the 'peculiar' family name). The 42-year-old actor, who plays 'LOTR's' Aragorn/Strider, began acting in 1982 after studying at Warren Robertson's Theatre Workshop. He then appeared in a number of critically acclaimed performances onstage, most notable of which was in "Bent," for which he won a Dramalogue Critics Award.

He had guest stints on "Miami Vice" before he landed his first jobs in film, Woody Allen's "The Purple Rose of Cairo" and Jonathan Demme's "Swing Shift," but his scenes were cut out of both.

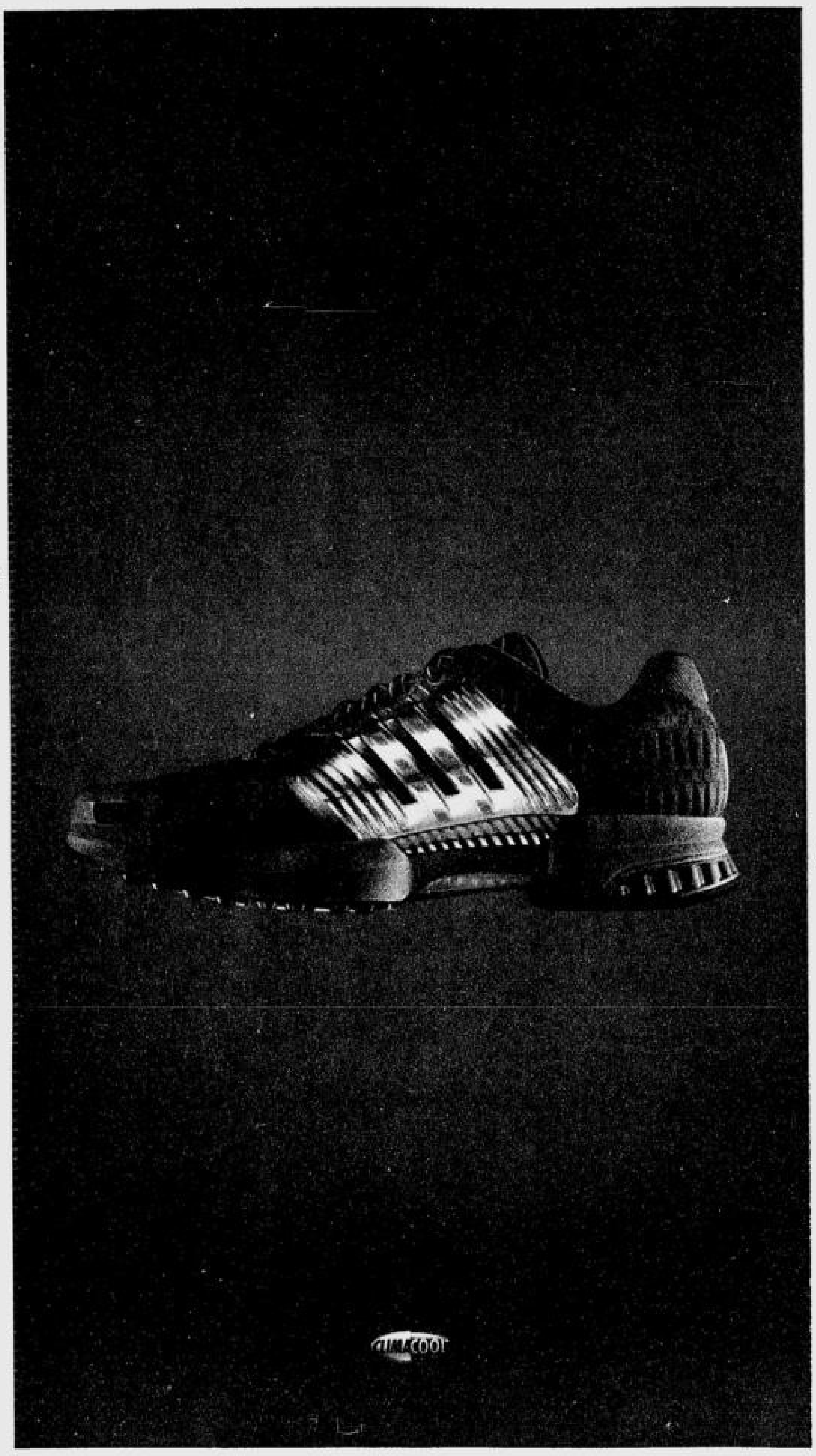
He has since appeared in some 40 film features, most notably "28 Days" (with Sandra Bullock), "A Perfect Murder" (with Gwyneth Paltrow), "G.I. Jane" (with Demi Moore), Brian de Palma's "Carlito's Way," "Crimson Tide," Jane Campion's "Portrait of a Lady," "Daylight" (with Sly Stallone), Gus Van Sant's "Psycho" and Sean Penn's directorial debut, "The Indian Runner."

He's a jack of all trades. He's a poet (he published a book of poetry, "10 Last Night," before he got famous), a photographer (his pictures were featured in a New

VIGGO/ P. E7



MORTENSEN. Jack of all trades.



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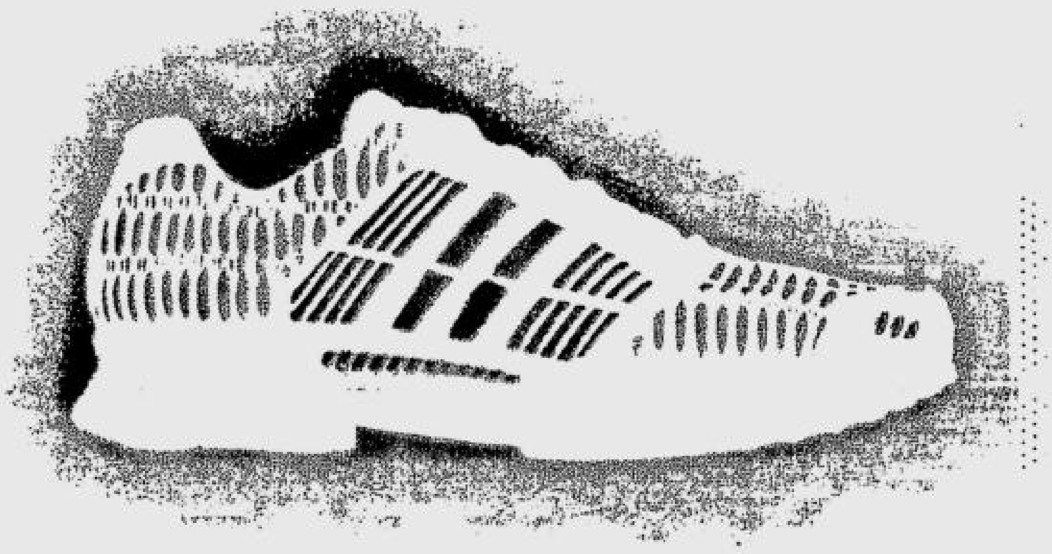

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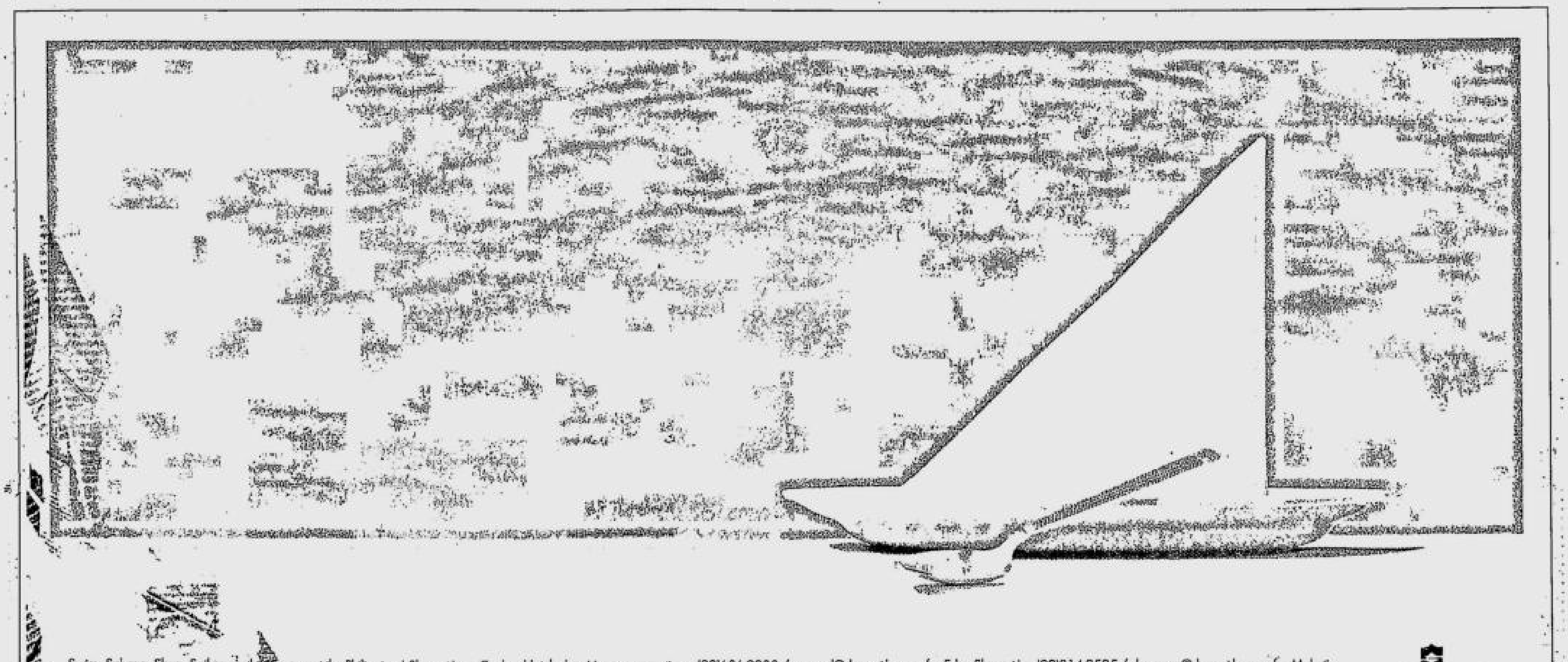

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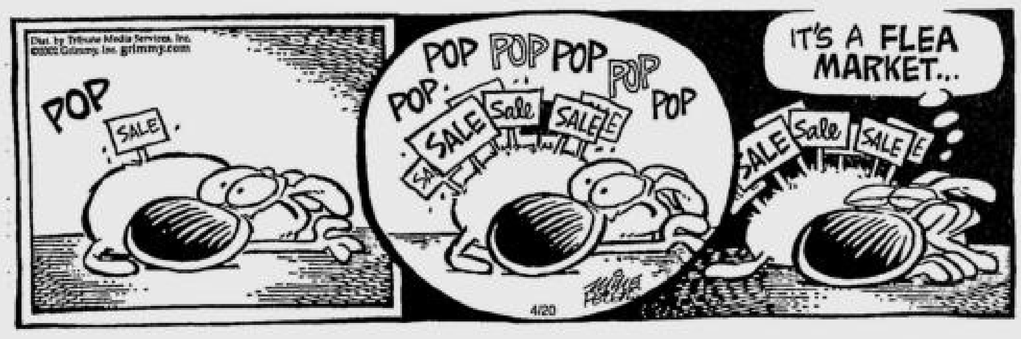
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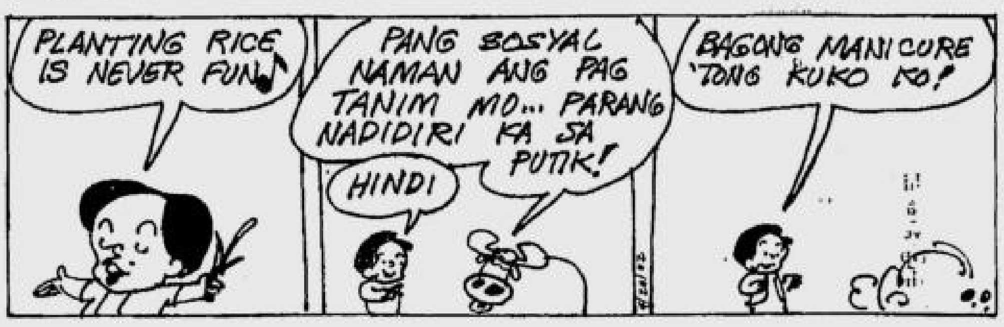
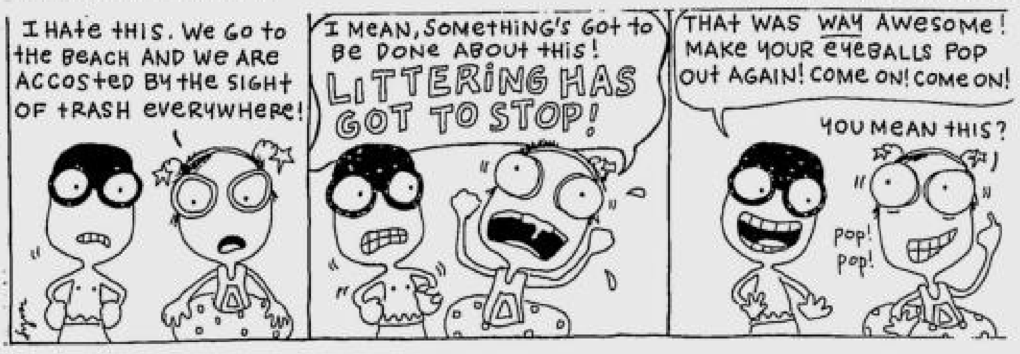
POP
SALE
POP POP POP POP POP POP
SALE Sale SALE
IT'S A FLEA MARKET...
SALE Sale SALE
4/20

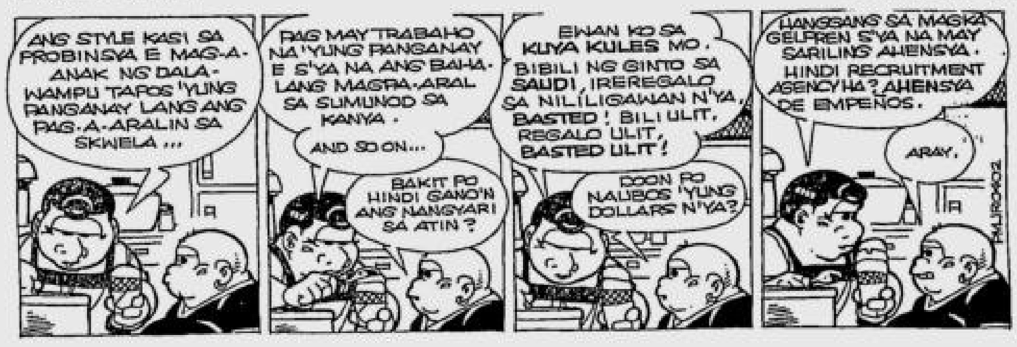
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PLANTING RICE IS NEVER FUN ♪
PANG BOSYAL NAMAN ANG PAG TANIM MO... PARANG NADIDIRI KA SA PUTIK!
HINDI
BAGONG MANICURE 'TONG KUKO KO!

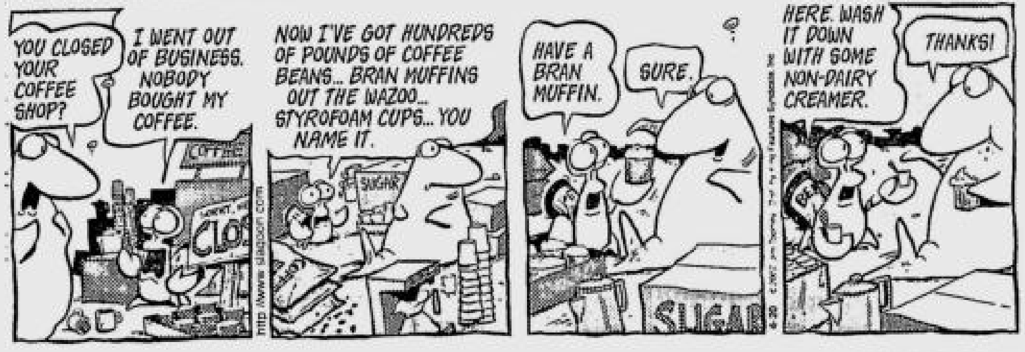
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I HATE THIS. WE GO TO THE BEACH AND WE ARE ACCOSTED BY THE SIGHT OF TRASH EVERYWHERE!
I MEAN, SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS! LITTERING HAS GOT TO STOP!
THAT WAS WAY AWESOME! MAKE YOUR EYEBALLS POP OUT AGAIN! COME ON! COME ON!
YOU MEAN THIS?
pop! pop!

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG STYLE KASI SA PROBINSYA E MAG-A-ANAK NG DALAWAMPU TAPOS 'YUNG PANGANAY LANG ANG PAG-A-ARALIN SA SKWELA ...
PAG MAY TRABAHO NA 'YUNG PANGANAY E S'YA NA ANG BAHALANG MAGPA-ARAL SA SUMUNOD SA KANYA.
AND SO ON...
BAKIT PO HINDI GANO'N ANG NANGYARI SA ATIN?
EWAN KO SA KUYA KULES MO. BIBILI NG GINTO SA SAUDI, IREREGALO SA NILILIGAWAN N'YA, BASTED! BILI ULIT, REGALO ULIT, BASTED ULIT!
DOON PO NAUBOS 'YUNG DOLLARS N'YA?
HANGSANG SA MAGKAGELPREN S'YA NA MAY SARILING AHENSYA.
HINDI RECRUITMENT AGENCY HA? AHENSYA DE EMPEÑOS.
ARAY.

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


YOU CLOSED YOUR COFFEE SHOP?
I WENT OUT OF BUSINESS. NOBODY BOUGHT MY COFFEE.
COFFEE
CLOSED
NOW I'VE GOT HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF COFFEE BEANS... BRAN MUFFINS OUT THE WAZOO... STYROFOAM CUPS... YOU NAME IT.
SUGAR
HAVE A BRAN MUFFIN.
SURE.
HERE. WASH IT DOWN WITH SOME NON-DAIRY CREAMER.
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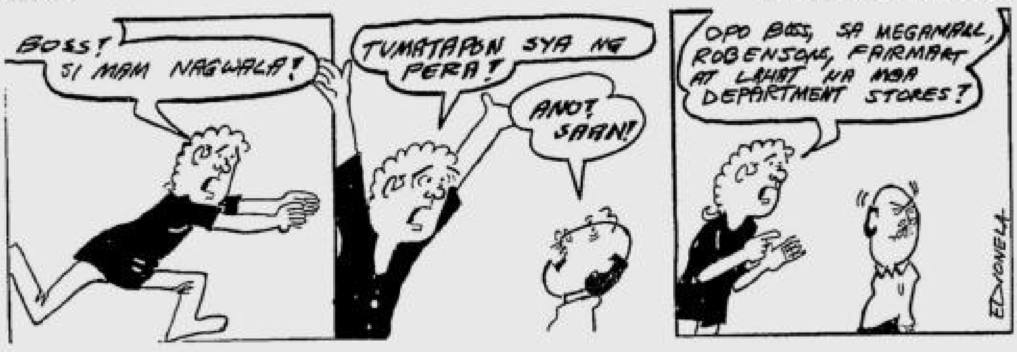
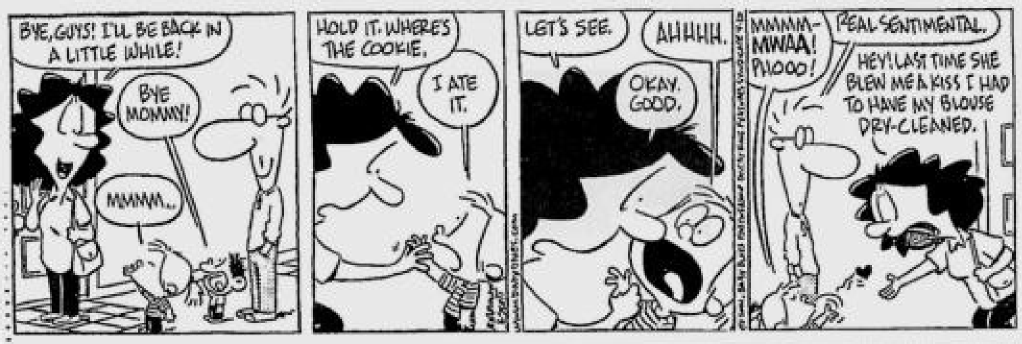
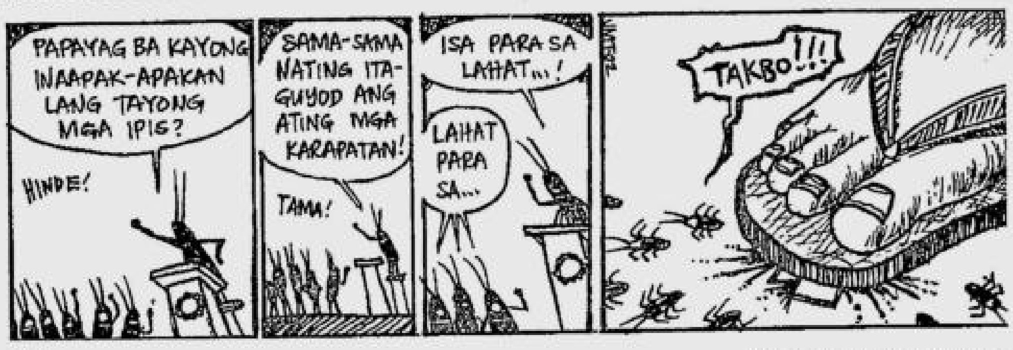

BOSS! SI MAM NAGWALA!
TUMATAPON SYA NG PERA!
ANO? SAAN!
OPO BOSS, SA MEGAMALL, ROBENSONS, FAIRMART AT LAHAT NA MGA DEPARTMENT STORES?
EDIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


BYE, GUYS! I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE!
BYE MOMMY!
MMMM...
HOLD IT. WHERE'S THE COOKIE.
I ATE IT.
LET'S SEE.
AHHHH.
OKAY. GOOD.
MMMM-MWAA! PLOOO!
REAL SENTIMENTAL.
HEY! LAST TIME SHE BLEW ME A KISS I HAD TO HAVE MY BLOUSE DRY-CLEANED.

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAPAYAG BA KAYONG INAAPAK-APAKAN LANG TAYONG MGA IPIS?
HINDE!
SAMA-SAMA NATING ITAGUYOD ANG ATING MGA KARAPATAN!
TAMA!
ISA PARA SA LAHAT...!
LAHAT PARA SA...
TAKBO!!!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Lange, Ryan O'Neal, Lionel Hampton, Clint Howard

Happy Birthday: You will experience opportunities in business, in joint financial ventures and in dealing with secret or intriguing groups. You will take a risk if necessary. You will be the one in your group who takes the role of leadership. You should take a serious look at your personal papers that may require updating or changes. Your numbers are 5, 11, 22, 29

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll come up with some creative ideas today that will dazzle the people you spend time with. Any involvement that you have with younger people will be rewarding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Confrontations can be expected today if you let down your guard. Someone you live with may not see things your way. Don't be stubborn if someone has a good suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will enjoy traveling and visiting friends or relatives today. Family outings should highlight your day. You should expect to receive something special from a friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can expect to experience sudden losses, especially if you aren't careful where you leave your belongings or your cash. Don't believe everything that you are told today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your emotional reaction toward others will lead to all sorts of complications. Be prepared to apologize if you say something you shouldn't. Do not jump to conclusions or take action that could be misleading.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have to deal with institutions today. Do not overspend on travel or entertainment. Being cash poor will leave you feeling depressed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your contributions to worthy groups will enhance your reputation and make you feel good about yourself. Be careful that you don't leave yourself short of funds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Open your eyes or you may miss out on something very important. Take heed of the advice being given by someone on the outside looking in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love connections can be made through travel adventures, seminars or conventions you attend. You will have fun if you can gamble without going overboard.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get down to business and start the process of home decorating or renovations. Get the whole family involved. Your patience may be needed when dealing with little ones but the unity will make it all worthwhile

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If someone is trying to get concrete answers out of you, he or she is probably wasting time. You may want to reconsider your personal intentions. Ulterior motives are likely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should try to get together with someone that you find interesting today. Your sensitive nature will be appreciated if you offer emotional support. Don't be afraid to mix business with pleasure.

Birthday Baby: You will be artistic, creative and outgoing. You will enjoy entertaining, and you will be known for your generosity as well. You will love a challenge and will be competitive throughout life.

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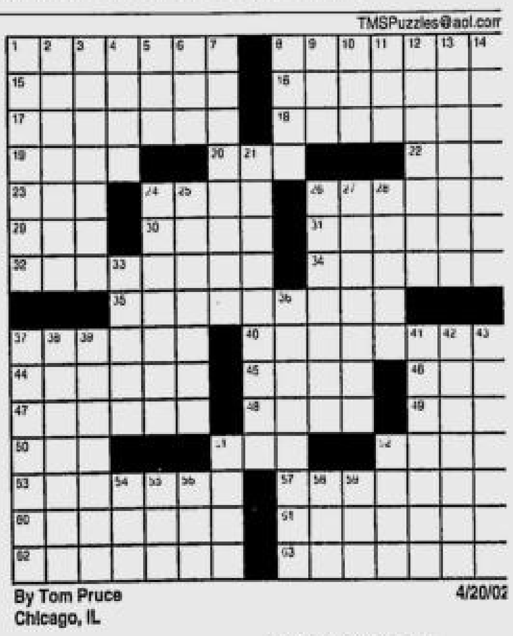
8 Indian bean tree
15 Creamy whites
16 Spiny trees
17 Pope's emissaries
18 Quintets
19 Gershwin and Levin
20 Shuttle destination: abbr.
22 Anger
23 Branch
24 High-pitched instrument
26 Add herbs
29 Can opener?
30 Work group
31 Forte
32 Declares formally
34 Gets up
35 Vacillating
37 James of "The Magnificent Seven"
40 Pinon seeds
44 Line of Hondas
45 Impersonator
46 Tug's responsibility
47 Side of the forehead
48 Crimson and scarlet
49 Wallach of "The Magnificent Seven"
50 Flap lips
51 Inc. in Piccadilly
52 African antelopes
53 Disengage
57 Diffusions
60 Colorizes, '60s-style
61 Kiev's country
62 Stable seats
63 Iotas

DOWN
1 Having hairlike growths
2 Went past
3 Ava Gardner movie
4 Memorable periods
5 Brood
6 Golfer's starting point
7 Changes into bone
8 Berets and beanies
9 Marksman
10 Sunbather's color
11 Dissemblance
12 Acts as the go-between
13 Italian innkeeper
14 Nods
21 Isolates
24 Burial procession
25 Madden
26 Discolored
27 Profit makers
28 Make straight
33 Overthrow
36 Obliterated
37 Tennis strings
38 South Pacific region
39 Struggled awkwardly
41 Implement
42 High-octane fuel ingredient
43 Alpine cheese choices
51 Fewer
52 Patsy
54 Uneven?
55 Popeye's Miss Olive
56 "I Can __ Clearly Now"
58 Enjoy Chamonix
59 A-Team member



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

4/20/02

Friday's Puzzle Solved

O	L	A	V	■	C	E	L	S	■	A	T	B	A	T
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A	R	C	■	R	A	N	G	E	F	I	N	D	E	R
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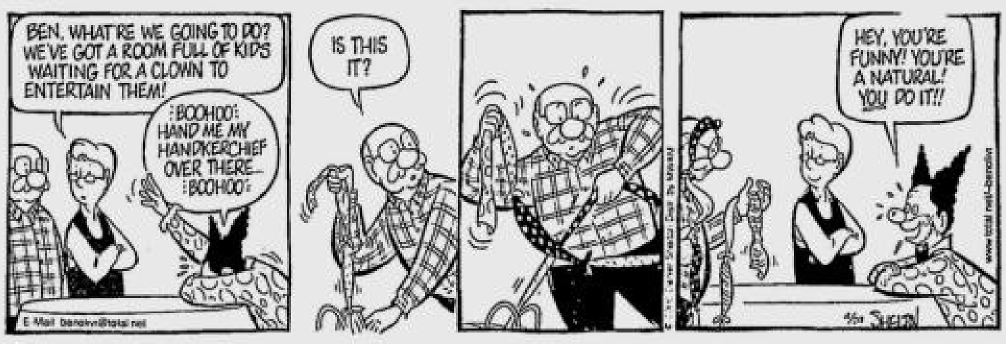
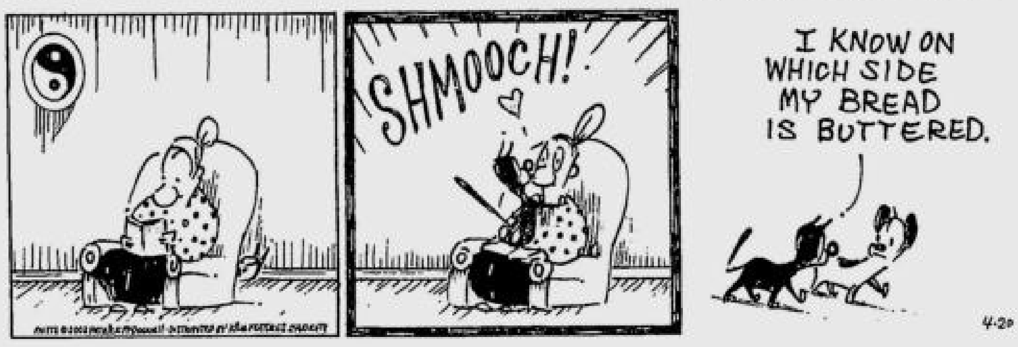
4/20/02

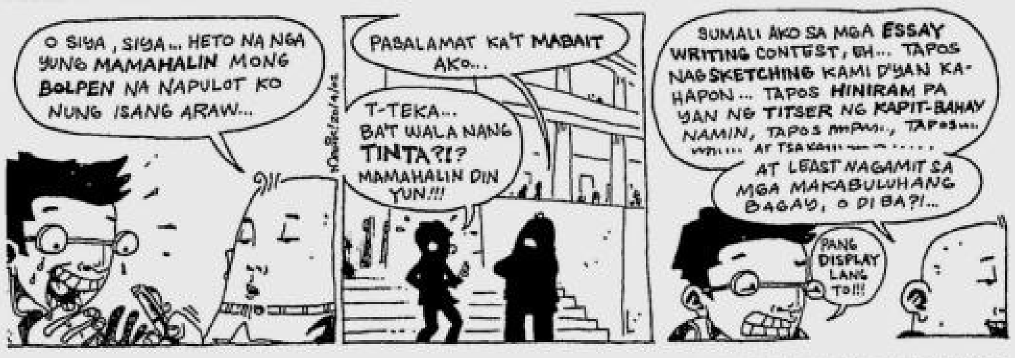
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO? WE'VE GOT A ROOM FULL OF KIDS WAITING FOR A CLOWN TO ENTERTAIN THEM!
:BOOHOO: HAND ME MY HANDKERCHIEF OVER THERE... :BOOHOO:
E-Mail benshvn@total.net
IS THIS IT?
HEY, YOU'RE FUNNY! YOU'RE A NATURAL! YOU DO IT!!
4/20 SHELTON

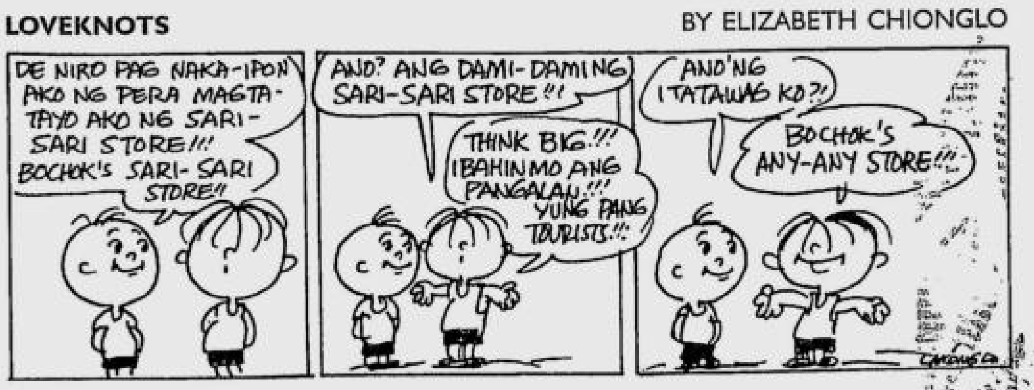
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHMOOCH!
I KNOW ON WHICH SIDE MY BREAD IS BUTTERED.
4-20

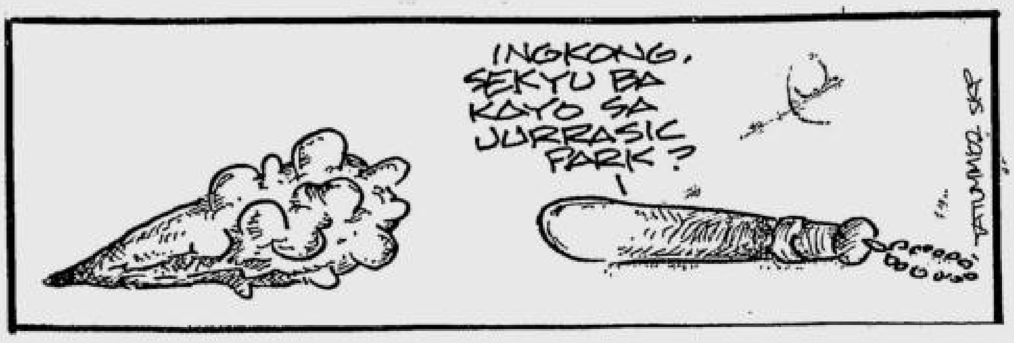
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


O SIYA, SIYA... HETO NA NGA YUNG MAMAHALIN MONG BOLPEN NA NAPULOT KO NUNG ISANG ARAW...
PASALAMAT KA'T MABAIT AKO...
T-TEKA... BA'T WALA NANG TINTA?!? MAMAHALIN DIN YUN!!!
SUMALI AKO SA MGA ESSAY WRITING CONTEST, EH... TAPOS NAG SKETCHING KAMI D'YAN KAHAPON... TAPOS HINIRAM PA YAN NG TITSER NG KAPIT-BAHAY NAMIN, TAPOS...
AT LEAST NAGAMIT SA MGA MAKABULUHANG BAGAY, O DI BA?!...
PANG DISPLAY LANG TO!!!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO PAG NAKA-IPON AKO NG PERA MAGTATAYO AKO NG SARI-SARI STORE!!! BOCHOK'S SARI-SARI STORE!!
ANO? ANG DAMI-DAMING SARI-SARI STORE!!!
THINK BIG!!! IBAHIN MO ANG PANGALAN!!! YUNG PANG TOURISTS!!!
ANO'NG ITATAWAG KO?!
BOCHOK'S ANY-ANY STORE!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


INGKONG, SEKYU BA KAYO SA JURRASIC PARK?
TATUMIOD SKP

Viggo Mortensen. . . (From page E5)

York exhibit in June-2000), a painter (he created the large murals and *all* 40 of his character's paintings in "A Perfect Murder"), and an accomplished jazz musician ("One Man's Meat," "One Less Thing to Worry About," "The Other Parade"). Plus, he speaks fluent English, Spanish and Danish. Is there *anything* this guy cannot do?!

He has a child, Henry, with punk singer Exene Cervenka, whom he divorced five years ago. Next picture? Neil Jordan's "Borgia," based on the corrupt Italian family to which the controversial Pope Alexander VI belonged.

Trivia: Viggo replaced Irish actor, Stuart Townsend (seen recently with Aaliyah as Le Stat in Anne Rice's "Queen of the Damned"), after the latter was allegedly fired as Aragorn two weeks *after* filming started.

Viggo also evinces an actorly eccentricity by totally immersing himself in his roles: in 'LOTR,' he lived in the forest in his character's torn and mud-stained clothes, refused to remove his sword from his back during meals, and requested that a displaced tooth be "glued" back into his mouth! Double *ouch!*

As a sadistic sergeant who gives Demi hell in "G.I. Jane," he trained alone rather than with his co-stars to comprehend his character's sense of isolation. And, in "Indian Runner," he went all-the-way naked to show his character's degeneration into drunken hell.

Reacting to rumors that he caused the break-up of Paltrow and Ben Affleck (courtesy of his "realistic" love scenes with Gwyneth in "A Perfect Murder"), Viggo says, "I had a great sex scene (as Lucifer) with Christopher Walken in "The Prophecy," and no one started rumors about us! When will people realize that actors *act*? If we didn't make love scenes believable, we wouldn't be doing our jobs properly."

"I saw Uma Thurman's delicious *contravida* turn only a couple of weeks ago as Poison Ivy in 'Batman and Robin.' I haven't seen the complete series. Who were the other villains in the previous versions?"—*Archie de Rios, Tagum, Davao del Norte*

For more "delicious" bad-guy turns in the franchise, check out Jack Nicholson's The Joker (``Batman," 1989); Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman and Danny DeVito's Penguin (``Batman Returns," 1992); Jim Carrey's The Riddler, Drew Barrymore's Sugar and Tommy Lee Jones's Two-Face (``Batman Forever," 1995) *and* Arnold Schwarzenegger's Mr. Freeze (``Batman and Robin," 1997).

VIGGO. Speaks fluent English, Spanish and Danish.

"I want to know more about my favorites: Daniel Radcliffe, Tom Felton, Emma Watson and the kid who played Ron Weasley. Have they acted in movies before Harry Potter? –*Mercy Grace Santik, Isabel, Leyte.*

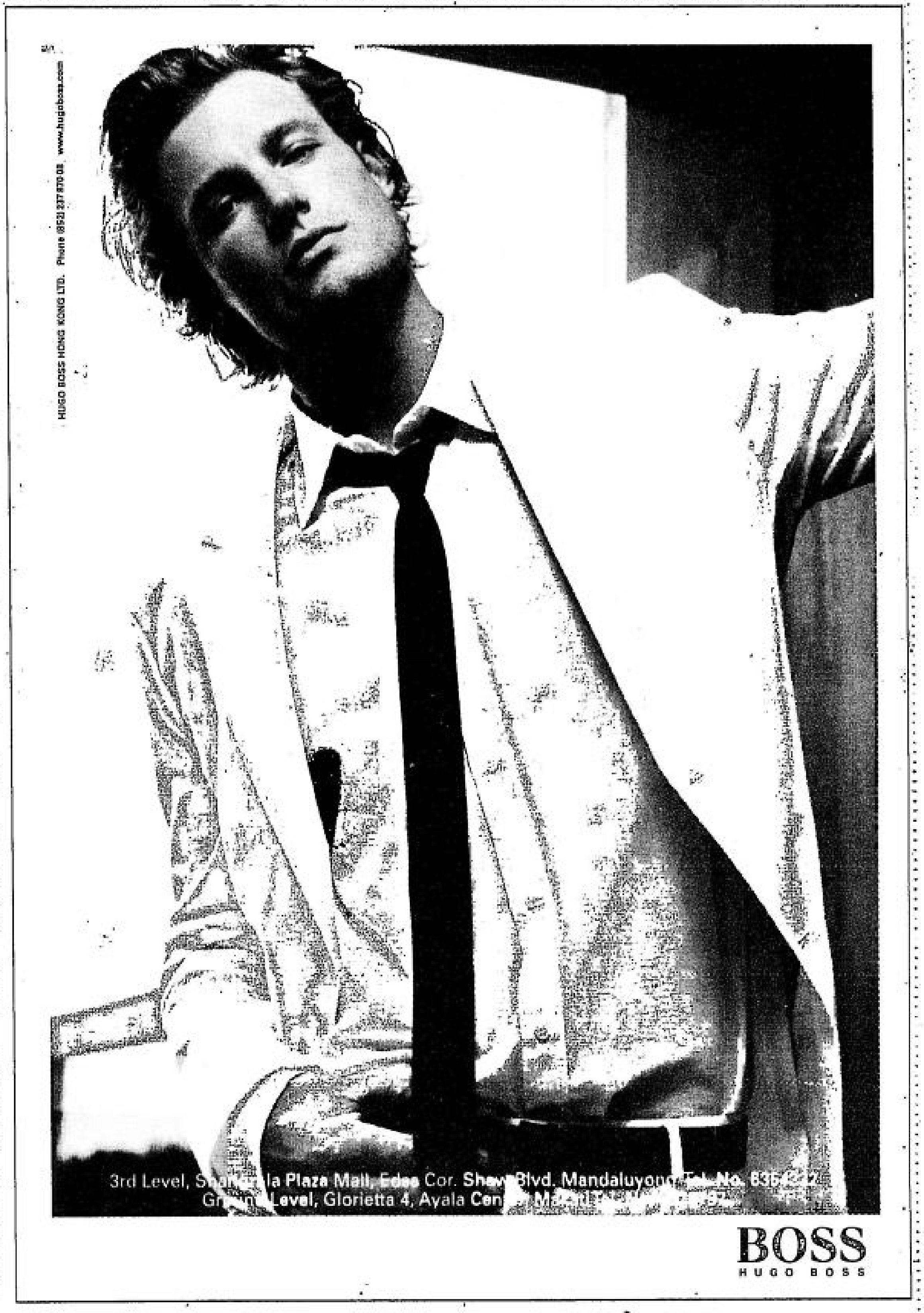
***From Caye Pablico, Talisay City, Negros Occidental,* "Emma Watson is my favorite actress. Is that her real name?"**

We have already featured Daniel and Tom in past issues. Rupert Grint (born Aug. 24, 1988 in London, England) played Ron, Emma Charlotte Duerre Watson (born April 15, 1990 in Oxfordshire, England) played Hermione Granger. "Potter" was Emma's and Rupert's film debut.

Rupert loved the Harry Potter books so much that he decided to audition (he performed a self-written rap that promoted himself in the role of Ron), and got the part.

Emma won first place in a Daisy Pratt poetry competition when she was seven, did school plays ("Arthur: The Young Years," "The Happy Prince"), loves hockey and debating, is actually blonde but dyed her hair red for the role of Hermione. Both of her parents are lawyers.

Rupert has since appeared in Paul Hewitt's "Thunderpants," with Simon Callow. Prior to "Potter," Emma had appeared in Bill Cosby's "Kids Say the Darndest Things" in 1998. Now *that* would be interesting to watch. Calling RPN-9 for a replay of that 1998 telecast!



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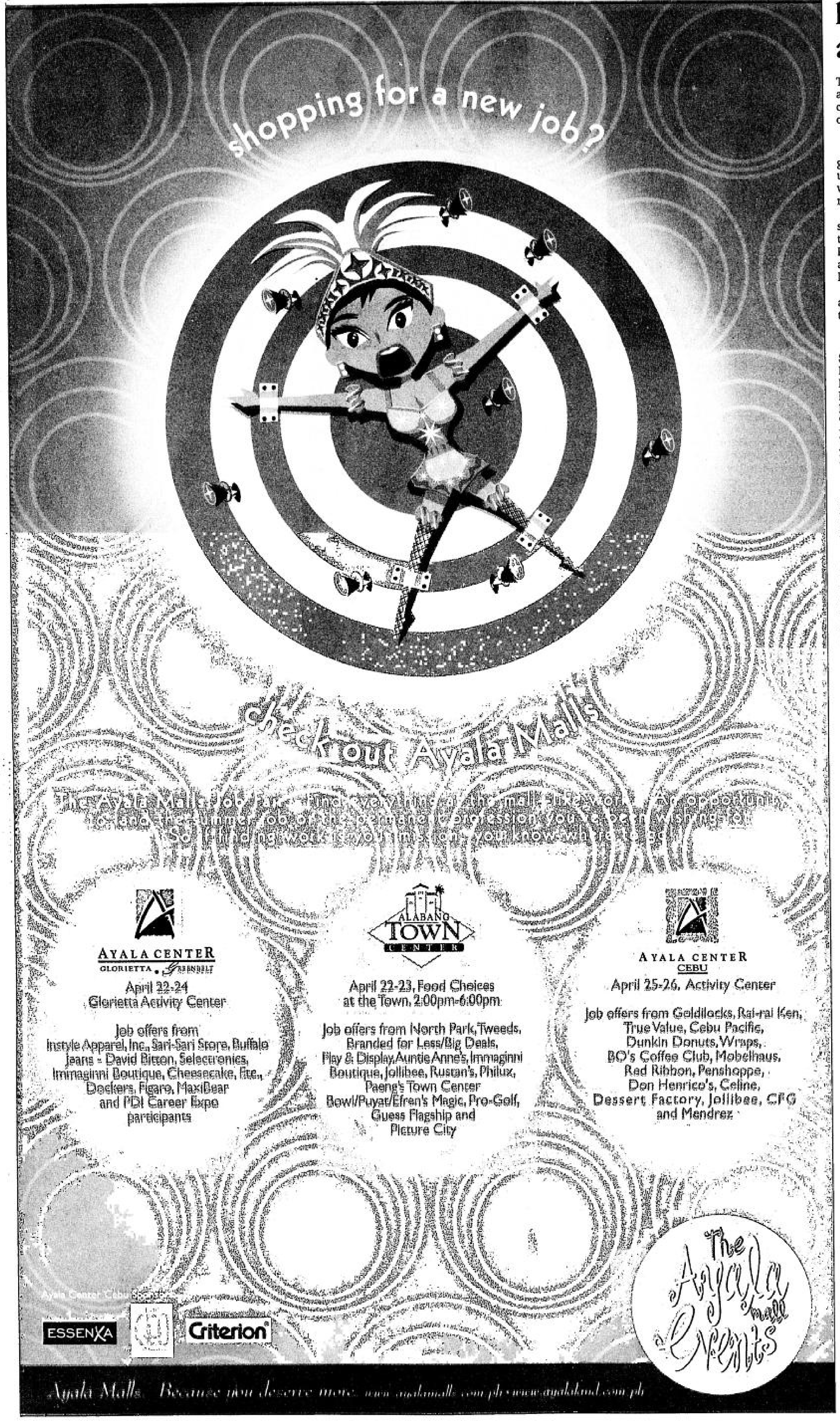

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Stars of Giorgio honors San Pedro and Celerio

THE LATE National Artists Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio will be honored with a concert as "Classical Encounters" returns to Stars of Giorgio tonight.

Folk idiom

San Pedro was a multi-awarded artist who glorified the Filipino soul through the creative use of the folk idiom in his compositions. He wrote for different media such as voice, chorus, band, and orchestra

Celerio wrote lyrics for more than 4,000 songs. The public remembers him whenever they hear "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" on Mother's Day, "Gaano Kita Kamahal" during weddings, and "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" whenever a loved one passes away.

Paying homage to these two great maestros are soprano Josephine Roces-Chavez and tenor Jonathan Badon.

Repertoire

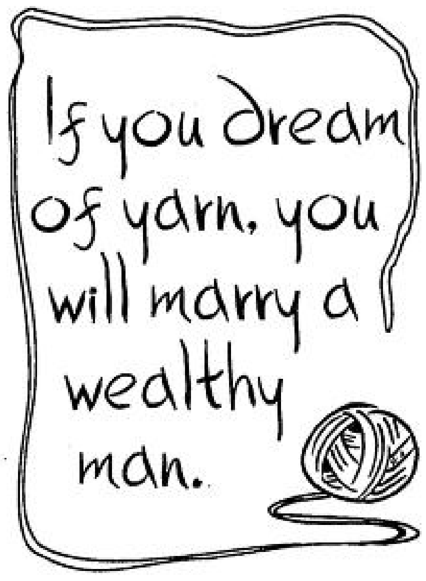
The duo's repertoire includes "Sa Lupang Sarili," "Sampatak ng Hamog," "Sa Mahal Kong Bayan," "Sa Ugoy Ng Duyan," "Ang Pipit," "Leron-Leron Sinta," "Hindi Kita Malimot," "Maalaala Mo Kaya," "Minamahal Kita," "Basta't Mahal Kita," "Ikaw," "Hatinggabi," "Iyo Kailan Pa Man," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," "Kahit Na Magtiis," "Ikaw Ang Mahal Ko," and "Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal."

Sumptuous dinner

Complementing this concert series is a sumptuous Eastern-Mediterranean dinner which includes Shank of Venus (Lamb Shank) and balut like you've never tasted it before!

Incidentally, this tribute to our National Artists will again be staged for the benefit of the Worldwide Advocates for the Rights of migrants (Warm), an organization of professionals, religious partners and individuals which supports the rights and promotes the welfare of the migrant Filipinos. Call Stars of Giorgio at 897-7520 or 816-0503.

CELERIO AND SAN PEDRO. Memorable songs.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SATURDAY*Special*

Michael J. Fox is courage personified

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST week, we tuned in to "Larry King Live" on CNN, as we sometimes do, just to see what he had to offer, and we were thrown for a loop when we saw King talking to a man who looked like he was a huge bundle of nerves.

He fidgeted, he twitched, he trembled, he shook something

MICHAEL/ p.F2

FOX. Afflicted with Parkinson's.

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These choices will impact the rest of their lives. They develop their own styles; buy their own clothes, make-up and other things. They become their own persons, totally free to choose their own stuff. Especially their very own personal care products. Like their own brand of hygienic, sanitary napkins.

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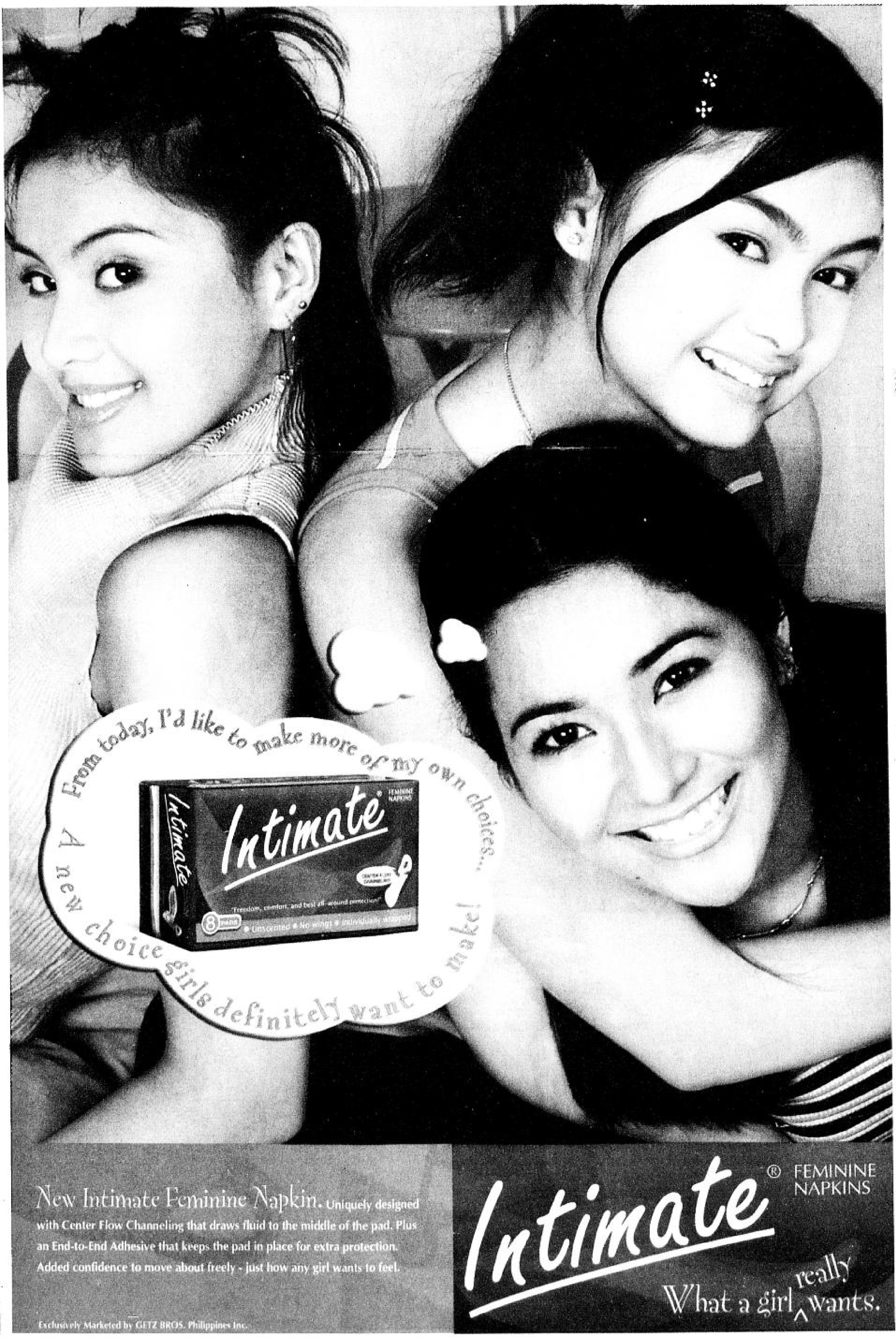

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What a girl really wants.

Student film competitions on the rise

By Rica Arevalo

"BIAG TI TINGUIAN." This documentary by Jesse Alegre is dedicated to the preservation of the Tinguian tribe in Mountain Province.

BACK in the 1970s, there was an interest in moviemaking among young filmmakers in the country. Schools started offering courses in film and communication arts.

First films

Abroad, Roman Polanski, Martin Scorcese, Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone and Jane Campion were some of the first film graduates of the Ivy League. Their first films are now revered by the younger generation.

We are happy that our universities have made some efforts to continue that tradition. For the past three years, the University of the Philippines has sponsored the Inyorai Bidyo (In Your Eye) Competition among UP students.

Cesar Hernando, adviser of the Cinema as Art Movement tells us, "We wanted to have a healthy competition inside the UP community and encourage the students to make videos." Hernando teaches Electronic Media at the UP College of Fine Arts, where he disciplines his students to make storyboards and innovative film titling.

Winners

In this year's competition, the winners are "Binyag" by Mariami Tanangco (short feature), "Biag Ti Tinguian" by Jesse Alegre (documentary), and "Panaginip sa Tanghaling Tapat" by Herbert Monge Navasca (experimental.)

Tanangco tackles the decay of the country's film culture. "Binyag" is a thesis film for the College of Mass Communication.

Alegre's 23-minute documentary from the College of Fine Arts is dedicated to the cultural preservation of the Tinguian tribe in the Mountain Province.

Alegre, a first-time filmmaker says, "*Natuto akong gumawa ng docu at mahirap pala, lalo na kung wala kang* crew. *Na*-challenge *akong gumawa ng pag-aaral sa mga Tinguian, kasi konti lang ang nagbibigay-pansin sa kanilang kultura. Nakita ko rin ang magagandang kaugalian ng kulturang Pilipino.*"

This year's judges were filmmakers Raymond Red, Lav Diaz, Ellen Ramos, Avic Ilagan, and Gari Buenavista.

Ramos shares, "My favorite is the docu about the Mt. Province. But I wish the students were more unconventional and innovative. I enjoyed entries that show the 'youngness' of their age and are not trying hard to be wise or serious about life." Ramos is an animator and educator at the Mowelfund Film Institute.

ANOTHER scene from "Biag Ti Tinguian."

Less restrictive

Adds film artist Ilagan, "The short indie films are less restrictive, more playful and daring, and have a life of their own."

Recently, the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) held its Pix·el 2002 competition. Pix·el stands for picture excellence. It was the culminating activity of the Radio and TV production and direction class under screenwriter Adolfo Alix Jr. The winners are "Hugos" by Hazel Guillermo and Rose Flores (documentary), "Studeath" by Daniel Javier (experimental) and "Isang Pasada" by Kareen Panghulan (telecine).

"Hugos" is a 15-minute, disturbing and vivid exploration of abortion narrated by the young filmmakers with interviews from different women involved in the procedure. There is an actual footage of "*raspa*" which serves as an eye opener for those who choose to consider abortion as an escape from their unwanted pregnancies.

"Isang Pasada" is a *telesine* about a man who's desperate to live decently. In a wink of an eye, he finds himself trapped inside a stolen taxi, armed and ready to kill for money to save his dying daughter.

Vivid imagery

The clay animation "Studeath" is a funny depiction of a student trying to survive his schooling and his "terror" teacher.

Almost all student works have strong storytelling sensibilities, good characterization and vivid imagery.

Alix, whose script "Mga Munting Tinig" is now in production with film director Gil Portes says, "The competition is just the icing on the cake. It rewarded the efforts of the students but importantly, it also acted as an avenue to the student's creative perspective on the video medium—their insights on specific themes and topics translated into images."

We hope that more students will make their own films and make their voice heard in an industry dominated by old-timers with century-old formulas of storytelling and vision-less (or cataract-laden) leadership. If you have a good beginning, you will know for sure that your future will be...bright. There is nothing like a good foundation in anything you do.

Champagne Morales is more focused now

By Remy M. Umerez

MORALES. Living on her own.

A SMALL dinner marked the birthday of Champagne Morales, with her mom Dinah Dominguez attending to her guests.

Studies

Born on April 10, 1983, Champagne is more focused now on her studies at De La Salle University, where she is taking up Psychology. She hopes to pursue a career in Dermatology.

In 1998, Champagne won the top plum in GMA's Metropop Star Search Competition, which she considers a turning point in her singing career.

Sony Music Phils., immediately offered her a recording contract resulting in the release of a self-titled album, a mix of pop and R&B ballads. For the carrier single, she waxed "On my Own," a modernized pop version of the "Les Miserables" song.

Singing has always been a passion for Champagne. She sang Gospel music at a tender age and trained under Ryan Cayabyab.

Charity

She always finds time to sing for charity. When asked about her birthday wish, her quick reply was, "To touch people with my songs."

She is scheduled to host several mini-shows at Robinsons Galleria with Gabby Eigennman as co-host. She will also tour several regions in connection with a promo campaign for Unilever.

Champagne debuts on television through an action/fantasy sitcom, "Okay Ka Lang," which RPN-9 will launch next month. She portrays a princess from another time with action star Jeric Raval as her knight in shining armor. Other members of the cast are Jimmy Santos, Long Mejia and Klaudia Koronel.

A wish that's been granted for Champagne is to live on her own. A practical move, she says, because her condo unit is very near her school. She has a *yaya* to attend to her needs.

Freeday

On a free day, Champagne prefers to stay at home and listen to the music of the Carpenters, Mariah Carey, Robbie Williams, Sharon Cuneta and Gary Valenciano. Movies of Tom Cruise and Julia Roberts are treats she never misses.

She still loves collecting teddy bears and eating Japanese food. She daydreams of traveling around the world and owning her own shopping mall.

Show biz will take a back seat once Champagne resumes her studies.

Her preferred age for settling down is 25. Upon hearing this, Mom Dinah's face brightens!

Michael J. Fox is courage personified

(From page F1)

terrible, like a series of little earthquakes were taking place inside him.

No stranger

What, we wondered, was King doing, talking to this quivering mound of human gelatin? Then, we were able to focus on King's guest after we had gotten used to his shake, rattle and roll routine—and we realized with a start that this man was no stranger, he was actor Michael J. Fox.

Yes, the same Michael J. Fox who has delighted the world with his cool and frisky antics on TV and in the movies. So, why was he trembling so much? We'd heard that he was battling Parkinson's disease, but we didn't realize that he had come to this.

More than a year ago, Fox caught the show biz world offguard when he announced that he was resigning from his hit political sitcom because he could no longer control his shaking. That was the last time we had seen him on TV, and he looked relatively OK then, so his resignation was difficult to understand.

Uncontrollable

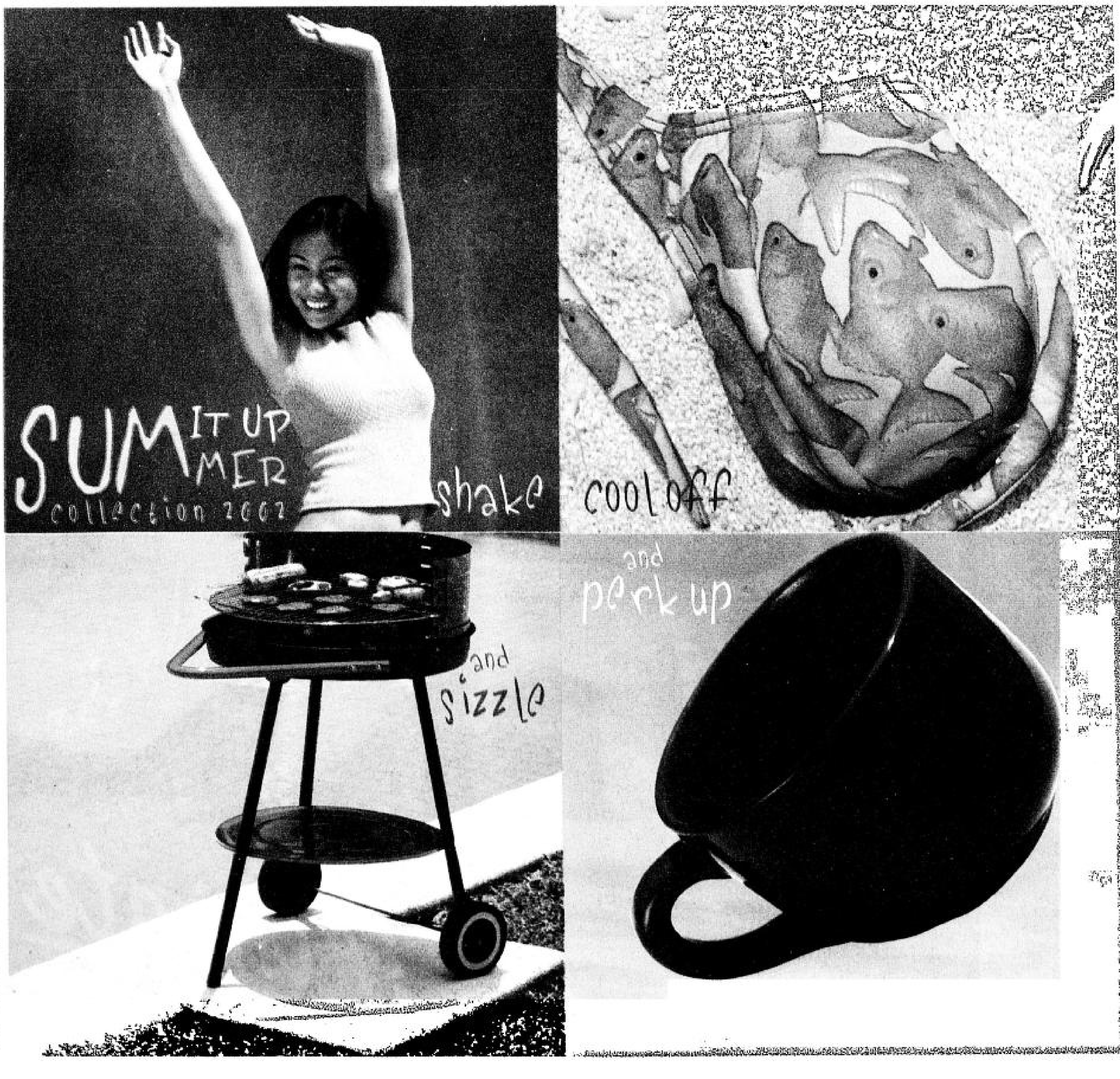
Well, last week on "Larry King Live," we saw how much Michael's condition had deteriorated, and we finally understood why he had decided to end his performing career a year ago. He wanted to leave while the leaving was good, before his twitching became really uncontrollable in front of the cameras.

So, what was he doing on Larry King's show, twitching and shaking and trembling away for all the world to see?

It wasn't a pretty sight, but we saw his point: he was bringing his nerve disease and its effect on him out into the open, so that viewers could confront it, deal with it, try to understand it, and figure out what could be done to help the millions of people who had it—and, hopefully, minimize the possibility of other people acquiring it in the future.

It was a courageous thing that Michael did that day with Larry King, and the host was moved. More, he really tried to work with

MICHAEL/ p.F3



Regine Velasquez does benefit for ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata

By Edmund L. Sicam

VELASQUEZ. No to soaps.

REGINE Velasquez will per form in a benefit concert for ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata 163 Foundation on April 26 at 8 p.m. Naturally, this fanned rumors that this is a prelude to her moving over to the Star Network. Months ago, she admitted that the network offered her a variety show but this would have meant giving up her noontime show on GMA, something that she enjoys very much.

Rumor

Regine laughed off the rumor saying, "You guys know that I've been talking with people at Channel 2, and they wanted to give me a summer special. So I said instead of doing a summer special, why don't I do a live concert, and I wanted to have a beneficiary, which they chose, Bantay Bata, and also the National Museum, since we're also doing it there."

The concert, "One Night with Regine Velasquez" will be held on the National Museum's steps. Accompanying her is the 85-piece San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the 55-piece San Miguel Master Chorale with maestro Ryan Caybyab as musical director. Bituin Escalante, Carol Banawa, Roselle Nava, RJ Rosales and Ogie Alcasid are special guests. The show is directed by Johnny Manahan and will be aired as a TV special at a later date.

"I'm really excited about it because this could be the start of something . . ." implies the singer. So far, Regine and ABS-CBN have only talked about this one show. She says that she is doing this to "establish a good relationship with them" which, she says, she had in the past. "So, we're just continuing that relationship," she clarifies.

She also states that she doesn't see anything wrong with her transferring to Channel 2. "As far as the *lipatan* thing is concerned, *nasa* point *ako* in my life where, *kung merong magandang* opportunity, *kung maganda iyung proyekto*, and I get really excited about it, the money doesn't matter.

"I have a good relationship with the other channel and I'm happy there with my show, but I'm also happy with this project that Channel 2 has given me."

Talent fee

"How much am I being paid? *Malaki! Sobrang laki!*" declares Regine in a sarcastic tone. And we left it at that.

It was Regine's idea to hold it at the National Museum, which she "discovered" when she was shooting her movie with Richard Gomez, "Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon." "*Ang ganda talaga! Nang nakita ko* for the first time, *sabi ko, siguro maganda mag*-concert *dito*. I think it would be nice so that more and more people would come and visit."

Regine reveals that a lot of the songs for the concert are still in the process of being arranged, since this is the first time that she will be performing with an 85-piece orchestra. She says that she will be doing around 18 songs, including duets with Ogie Alcasid of his songs sung by Regine in her movies, and new songs which have not yet been heard by the public.

We asked her if she would agree to coming out in a soap opera, and she quickly gave a resounding no. "*Hindi kaya ng* powers *ko umiyak* everyday! *Hindi ko kaya talaga! Hindi ko kakayanin!*" she said with obvious dread in her voice.

Birthday

The singer, who is celebrating her birthday on April 22, says she has had quite a lot to be grateful for. "*Itong mga* last three years, *ang ganda ng takbo ng* career *ko, ang daming mga* opportunities *na dumadating*, so I feel very blessed. She was recently crowned "Box Office Queen" because of the success of her movies in the year 2001.

Regine will be very busy in the next few months. This month, she's off to Paris to meet with Michel Legrand for the album that they will be doing together. Regine reveals that seven of the 14 songs in the album will be Legrand's popular songs, and the remaining seven will be new songs that the French artist will compose for her. She also shares excitedly that she may even record a duet with Michel Legrand. In June, Regine will be busy with a concert tour to different cities in the United States.

Savory nostalgia

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

CHINESE food has become a staple on most Pinoy tables. In fact, we have our own Filipino versions of Chinese cuisine. Restaurants that served this kind of combination used to be mostly in the Escolta area—places like Siki, Tomas Pinpin Café, Smart, MaKong, North Park and many others. A lot of these restaurants have ventured into branches and franchises, and I feel have lost the spunk in its dishes. Only a few others have maintained quality over the years.

Partnership

One restaurant that has been urged to expand, or go into partnership or franchises is Oriental Park Restaurant. This is Quezon City's "*pambato*" to the "Chinese" restaurants around the Escolta area.

A few weeks ago, I dined there with my buddies from the PNP. SPO3 Paul, Agustin, SPO4 Oscar and Mon and Lt. Nelson. We had a grand time. They kept bragging about the food of this place. I had dined here in the past way before I developed a passion for eating. I remember nothing more than it's being good.

That evening, we sat down in a fluorescent-lit dining area with a few displays of roasted chicken and meats at the window. My friend Mon knew what to order. With meals such as these, one has to have a glass of iced-cold coke. We ordered Seafood beancurd topped with toasted garlic, Golden kutchay, Chinese clams, Braised duck, Honey chicken, and Imperial fried rice.

Spicy

The beancurd was excellent. This to me, is the way a true bean curd dish should be prepared. It was hot, a bit spicy—a must!

The golden Kutchay was made with sea urchin, mushrooms, jellyfish, garlic, ginger and of course, kutchay. Also delicious, different and new, an original of this place.

The Chinese clams were made with Chinese bamboo clams, the elongated kind. Spicy and sweet, it was made with black beans and some brown sauce. *Basta masarap!*

The duck was too tough and the chicken ordinary. The Imperial rice was quite good, too.

I strongly suggest you give the place a visit. We had a most memorable, healthy and non-fattening meal. The quantity we took in is beside the point! This is what the old "Chinese" restaurant's cuisine used to taste like. What an ideal meal!

From there, we ended the evening at My Father's Moustache where we listened to nice, "reminiscing" songs of yesteryears. What a nice way to end an evening.

Happy eating!

(Oriental Park is located at the corner of Timog and Quezon blvd., right beside Circle Theater. Check it out!)

Celerio remembered . . .

From page F4

encourage our artists *while they're still alive*, when our concern can still make a difference in their often deprived and difficult lives.

Back to Levi and the CCP rites: The numbers performed that day vividly reminded us that he was an excellent lyricist—all those wonderful, well-loved songs that caused a visceral stir in the people present, as they remembered what those songs meant to them at different stages in their lives.

Snooty distinction

Levi's art also effectively cancelled out the snooty distinction that some people make between "high" and "low" art. Even when Levi's songs were at their most "*masa*," they were of the highest quality, and they resonated in everybody's heart, bank president and his driver alike.

Some anecdotes reminded us what a sardonic wit Levi was. He was no fastidious aesthete or purist, but a raucous pundit of the people who loved to pick the huge hot-air balloon that is the national psyche.

Awesome talent

Gifted singers like Robert Seña, Sylvia La Torre, Isay Alvarez and the Madrigals gave lilt and life to Levi's songs, reminding everyone of his awesome talent and contributions to the nation's cultural life.

The rites ended with a number played by Levi's son Eric at the piano, assuring everyone that the elder Celerio's musical gift did not end with his demise.

The CCP rites for Levi are deeply appreciated, but our expression of gratitude to the recently departed national artist should not end there.

We urge a recording company to come out with a double album of his masterworks, performed by our top musical artists. And Levi's fans and followers in show biz and the performing arts should mount their own musical tributes and retrospectives to remind everyone of his gift, generosity and genius.

Michael J. Fox is courage personified

From page F2

Michael to make Parkinson's disease, its causes and effects, clearer for laymen-viewers, so that they would want to support efforts to control and cure the severe neurological condition.

It didn't matter to Michael if some viewers would find him odd, a turn-off or funny. What was important was to get over the ignorance and misplaced guilt. And, between the two of them, Michael and Larry achieved exactly that.

Positive

Michael could have played for viewers' sympathy, but he wasn't interested in that. Despite his obvious physical discomfort, he opted to turn the negative into a positive, and urged everyone to support research for a cure to Parkinson's disease.

He plugged his new book, "Lucky Man: A Memoir," which focused on his experience with Parkinson's, and the book's title summed up his determinedly optimistic view of his condition.

Despite everything, he still considered himself fortunate because his illness had forced him to discover sources of strength deep within him that he never thought he had, and he has become a better man for it.

Even more rewardingly, his illness has made him look beyond himself, and think of others. Thus, most of his time these days is spent making Parkinson's a public health concern rather than just a private pain or embarrassment, and the benefits of his efforts will redound more to others than to himself.

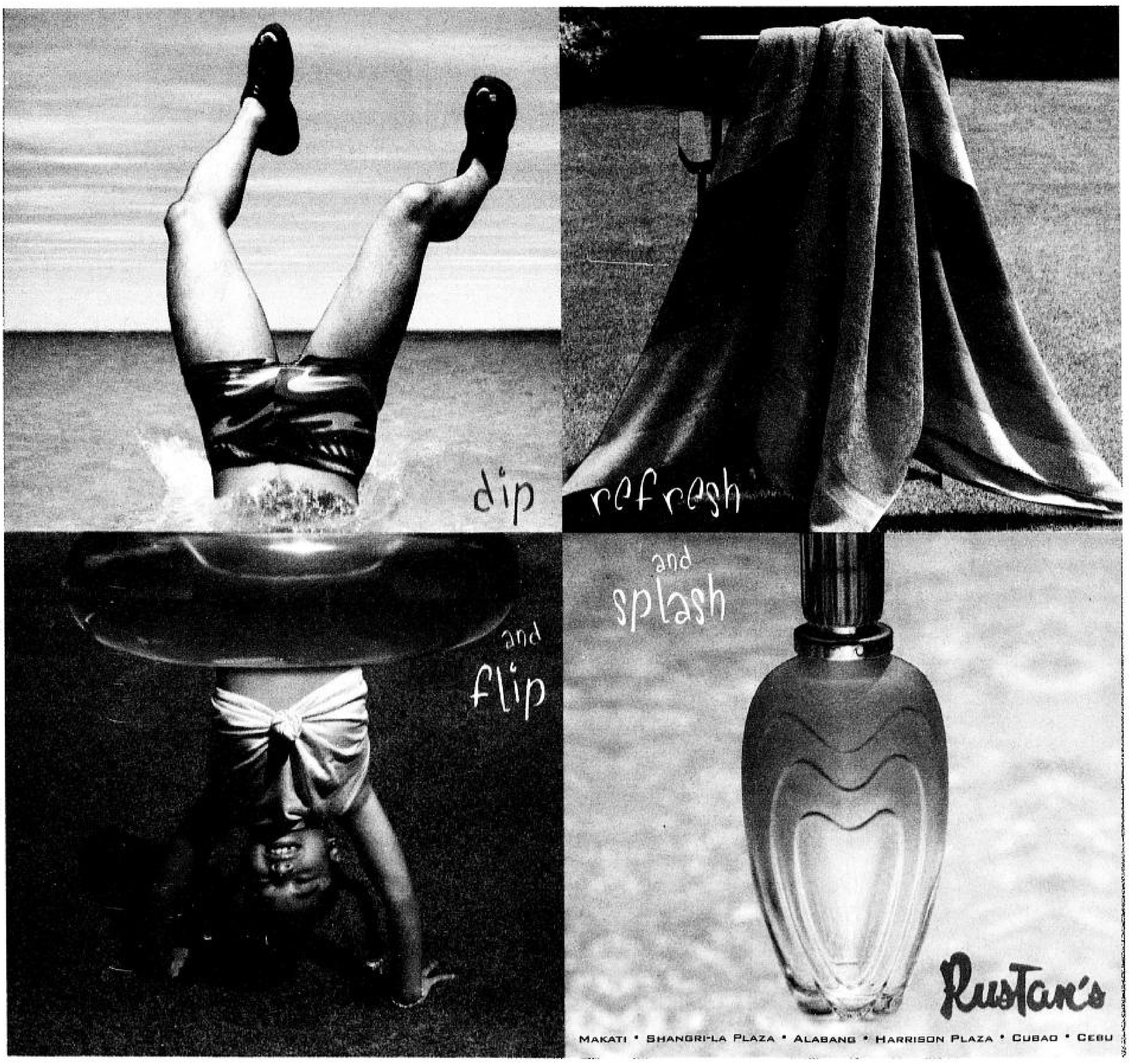
From victim to hero

Michael J. Fox is an object lesson on how a victim can transform himself into a hero—by thinking of others, not himself. There are lessons we can learn from that.

What does the future hold for Michael? If his condition continues to deteriorate, there may come a time when his shaking will be too pronounced to bear watching. But we wager that he will still be out there in public, plugging away for funding for research on Parkinson's.

It won't be a pretty picture, but pretty has nothing to do with it. Embarrassment and false guilt are no longer part of Michael's vocabulary.

The fight is what's important, and he will be in there, slugging and plugging away, as long as Larry King and other TV hosts will continue to provide him with a forum for his all-important message and mission.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Celerio remembered for his gift, generosity and genius

By Nestor U. Torre

CELERIO. Sardonic wit.

WE made it a point to attend the "Pagdadalamhati ng Bayan" (state necrological service) for the recently departed national artist Levi Celerio at the CCP last April 10 because we have been Levi's fan for decades.

Delightful surprise

Our first exposure to his works was a delightful surprise: we directed the Ambivalent Crowd in the '70s, and that popular group had quite a number of Levi's songs in its repertoire.

Our favorite then was "Ang Pipit," which the Crowd staged as a full production number complete with rollicking comedy and inventive choreography that never failed to bring the house down in the group's performances, both here and abroad.

Sometime later, we got to work with Levi when he was tapped to do the lyrics of some songs that were used in the movie productions in which we were involved. That's when we became a Levi fan for life, because we saw first-hand how exactly right his lyrics were, and how quickly he worked.

That was his unique combination of gifts: he was good *and* fast. And yet, the speed with which he worked did not diminish one bit the excellence of his lyrics. That was when we realized that Levi, despite his unassuming, aw-shucks ways, was a genius.

Woefully underappreciated

Tragically, he was woefully underappreciated during his lifetime. Maybe because he made lyric-writing look so easy, some people must have concluded that it was no big deal, so they gave him short shrift.

Levi was so strapped for cash that he was forced to perform novelty songs on his trusty violin and a stray leaf or two in some decrepit dives. He looked so woebegone even after he had been named a National Artist that we tried to persuade some of our producers to mount a benefit concert for him. Alas, there were no takers.

Contrast this to the veritable explosion of grief and belated appreciation after he had passed away. Sadly, that's the unenlightened way we are in this country when it comes to artists—we love to mourn their demise in the grandest way, but we treat them shabbily when they're still alive and just barely surviving!

Pathetic neglect

The root of this pathetic neglect is the fact that many of us don't really understand or care about the role of art and artists in our lives. We think that art is "for show," "*maarte*," removed from our reality and essence. The truth of the matter of course, is that genuine art expresses and vivifies *what we are*.

Thus, we need to value, support and

CELERIO/ p.F3

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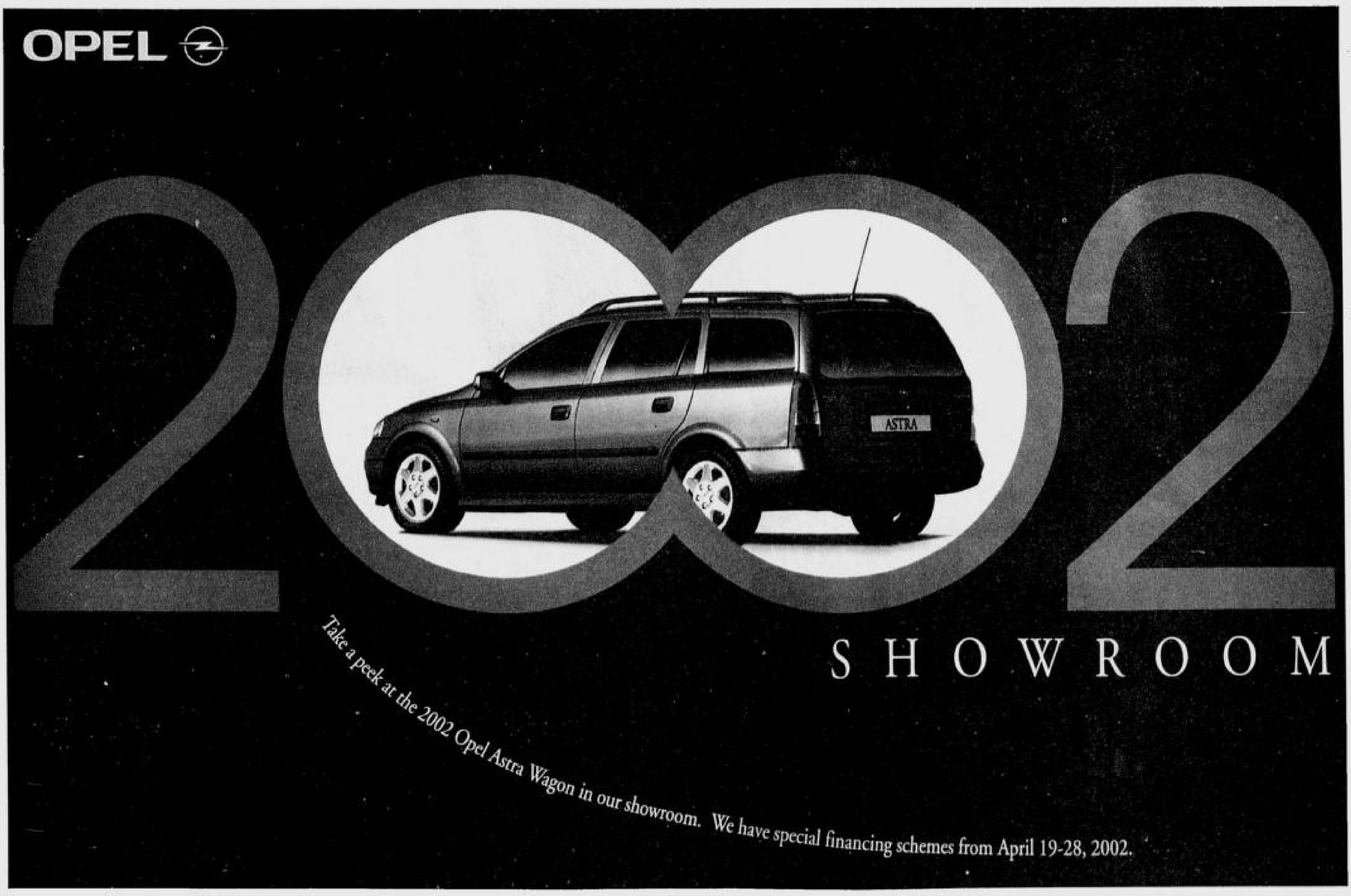

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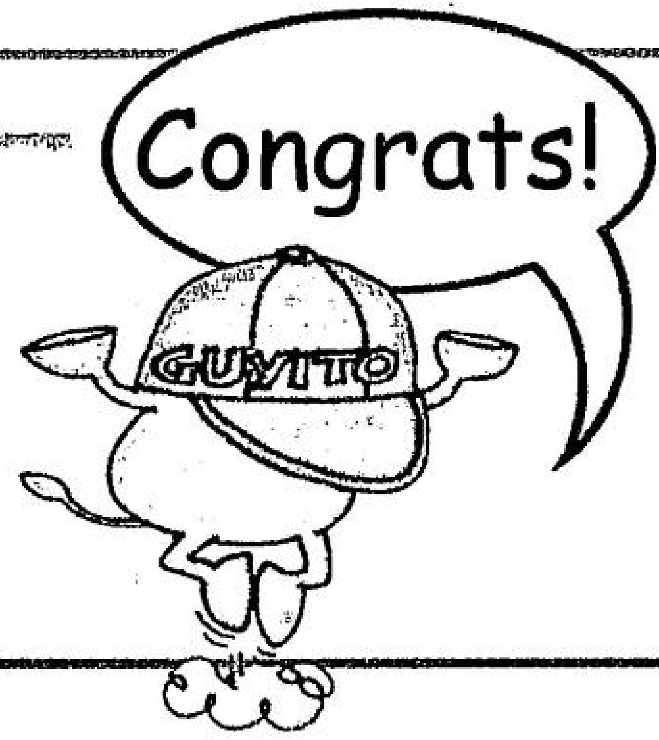

Junior
INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 28

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Eugene & Anina's Challenge

A young author taps into our country's treasury of culture and wins the 2002 Pilar Perez Medallion of Young Adult Literature

By Margaux C. Ortiz

WHEN 26-year-old writer Eugene Evasco first learned that he won the 2002 Pilar Perez Medallion for Young Adult Literature with his new novel "Anina ng mga Alon," he thought it was a joke.

"I was informed that I won on April 1, which is April Fools Day," he laughs. "I kept on asking them if it really was true."

Although Eugene has won many writing awards in the past, including five Palanca awards for his essays, poetry, and children's story, he was particularly excited about winning the Pilar Perez Medallion.

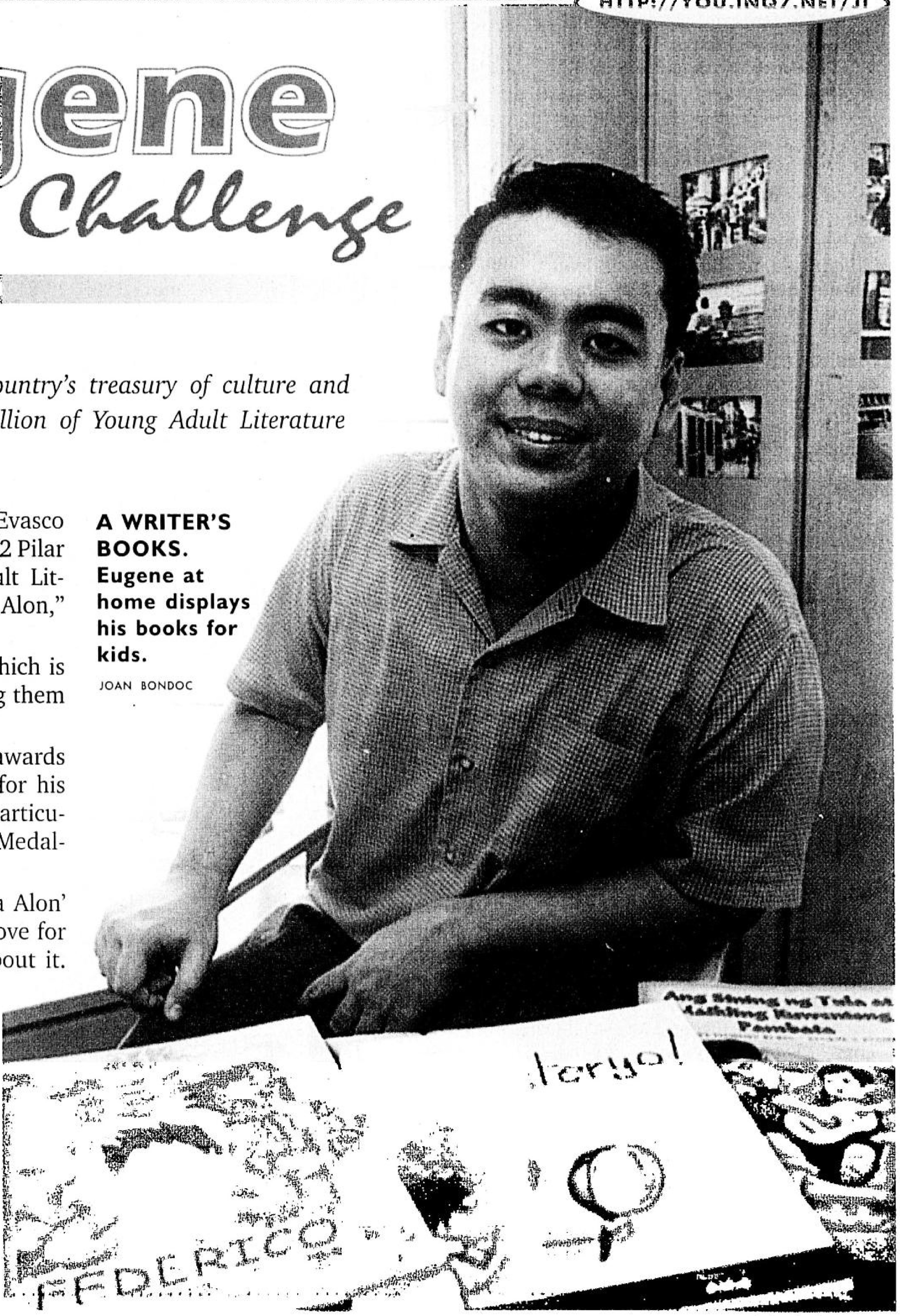
"Part of the prize is to get 'Anina ng mga Alon' published," he relates. "And I would really love for children and teenagers to read and talk about it. That would be reward enough for me."

Anina ng mga Alon

Eugene's interest in writing for kids began in 1995 when he was a sophomore at the University of the Philippines.

"I was lucky enough to participate in a very interesting writers' workshop that focused on children's literature," says Eugene, who is also an assistant professor at the College of Arts and Letters in UP.

Eugene/p.5



A WRITER'S BOOKS. Eugene at home displays his books for kids.

JOAN BONDOC

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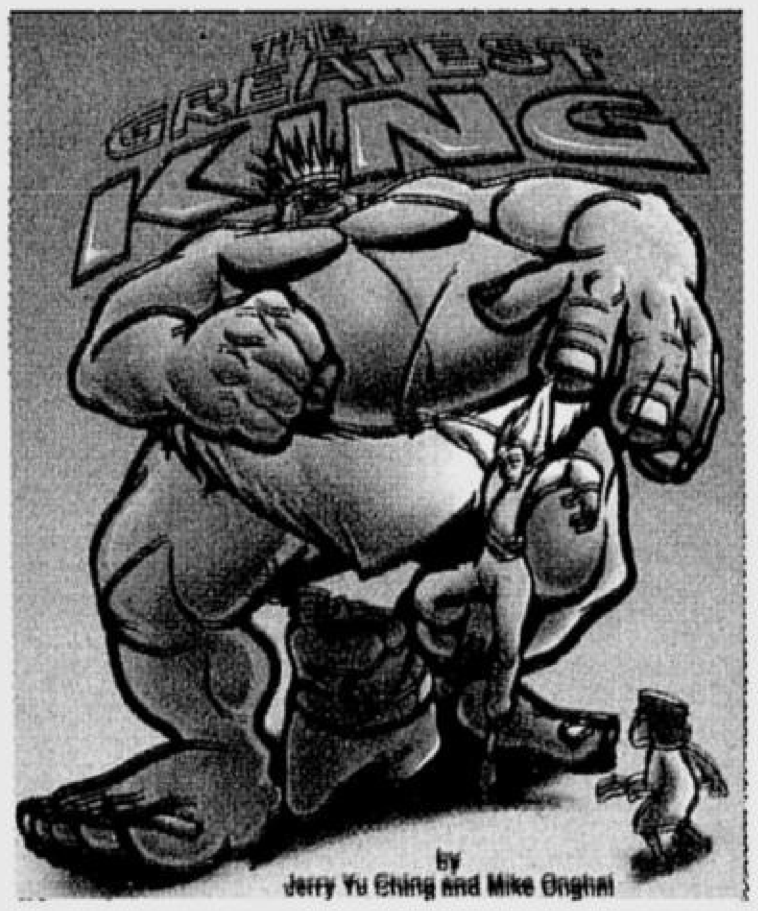
Stuff

NEW BOOK! What should a king do to be called great? Find out in the book "The Greatest King" illustrated by Filipino-American Disney animator Jerry Yu Ching. Grab the book now and join in his adventures. "The Greatest King" is published by Web Cartoons LLC and Jesuit Communications and is now available in bookstores. For inquiries contact Adarna House at 372-3548 to 49.


THE GREATEST KING
by
Jerry Yu Ching and Mike Onghai

Contest

IT'S EARTH DAY! Join the Earth Day On-the-Spot Art contest tomorrow at the Arroceros Forest Park, Arroceros Street, Manila.The contest is open to kids 6 years old and above. Bring your own art materials. Registration starts at 10 a.m. For more details call 633-7198.

Workshops

FREE ART WORKSHOP. Join Faber Castell's free art workshop for kids 7-11 years old. Interested participants should first register at 361-7391 to 92 on weekdays at 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Materials will be provided. Class schedules are: April 30-May 2 SM City Manila Entertainment Plaza; May 14-15 SM Southmall Activity Center; and May 28-29 SM Fairview Activity Center.

ART BOX. Learn how to draw and paint using various media such as charcoal, watercolor, oil pastel, and oil paint at Art Box's Summer Art Workshop. Check out the following schools where you can enroll: Marymount School BF Homes, Parañaque, 809-4486 & 809-4488; Child Learning Center 1887 Mila-gros St., Santiago Village, Makati, 895-2389 & 890-2474; Bloomfield Academy BF Resort Village, 874-1513 & 871-0559; Elizabeth Seton School BF Resort Village Las Pinas, 875-4553; Elizabeth Seton South Cavite City, (046) 471-0080.

ART'S COOL. Learn art and painting, theater arts, shadow puppetry (for kids and adults), creative writing and magic tricks. Sessions start on the second and third week of this month. For details visit Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila or call 523-1797 to 98. Look for *Kuya* Emer or *Ate* Des.

SABADO SA ADARNA. Adarna House and Jollibee are back with this year's Sabado sa Adarna. Choose from their list of summer workshops: storytelling and basic clay art; storytelling and basic puppetry; story-telling and basic mask-making and hat-making; poetry writing; and illustrating stories. For details call up 372-3548, 410-5200 and look for Mabi or Allan. Adarna House is located at 73-A Scout Limbaga St. Bgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City.

RAPPEL AT KAMPO UNO. Learn the exciting sport of rappelling at Kampo Uno. Classes ends on May 30. It is held at Quezon Memorial Circle, Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Open to all ages. For more details call up 912-8275.

READING ADVENTURE. R.E.A.D at PsychPros invites all kids to experience the joys of literature. The summer reading workshop is open to kids 6-13 years old. It will be held at the 3rd Floor President Tower Bldg., 81 Timog Ave., Quezon City. For inquiries call up 928-0878, 926-6579.

LEARNING IS FUN. Join in the FasTracKids Enrichment Learning, an exciting, innovative, and interactive program where kids will have hands-on activities, computer games, artworks, experiments, drawing and a lot more. Call 727-8746, 727-8499 or visit U-16 Valencia Hills Condominium, near San Juan and New Manila.

AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL. Be part of Sacred Heart School's summer programs for kids of all ages. Choose from the activities they prepared for you. Art workshop for 5-15 years old; magic workshop for 4-10 years old; Tae Kwon Do for 5-15 years old. Call 810-8505, 894-2273, 815-3058 to inquire for the SHS branch near you.

GLAD. God's Little Angels Development Center encourages kids of all ages to join their workshops which include: arts and crafts, painting, reading and math, tae kwon do, and dace. For details call up 655-2517 or 647-4504.

CARE. Care Center for Early Learning will be offering a wide variety of workshops this summer for kids 2-12 years old. Activities include: tinker tykes (summer camp for toddlers), Storybean Garden (reading camp), kitchen wizards, computer explorers, twinkletoes (dance classes), art camp, Tiny Tunes (voice and piano lessons), quills (creative writing) and summer tutorials. For inquiries call up 928-4847, 416-5476, or visit them at 28 Ricardo St. Carmel I Subd. Quezon City.

The 5 and Up Club invites kids 7 to 12 to summer art workshops at the different Don Henrico's branches. Check out which place, schedule and workshop fits you best!

Branch	Date/Time	Workshop
West Avenue	May 2/ 9-12pm 1-4pm	Basic drawing and illustration Origami Art
Festival Mall	May 3/ 9-12pm 1-4pm	Decor making for all occasions Greeting card making
Jupiter St, Makati	May 16/ 9-12pm 1-4pm	Basic Drawing and illustration Decor Making for all occasions
Libis	May 17/ 9-12pm 1-4pm	Basic Mask making Book illustration and drawing
Festival Mall	May 23/ 9-12pm 1-4pm	Origami art Greeting card making
Tomas Morato	May 24/ 9-12pm 1-4pm	Basic Mask making Book illustration and drawing

Each workshop is just P 150.00 (inclusive of snacks and materials). What are you waiting for? Cut out this form and check the workshop that you would like to attend. Then fax to 921-69-17 or call Catherine at 922-9273, Monday to Friday, 10 am to 6 pm to register. Pre-registration and payment before the workshop is required! Deposit the fee to our BPI savings account. (Account number: 3993-0088-41, Account name: Probe Media Foundation, Inc.) Then fax us a copy of the deposit slip.

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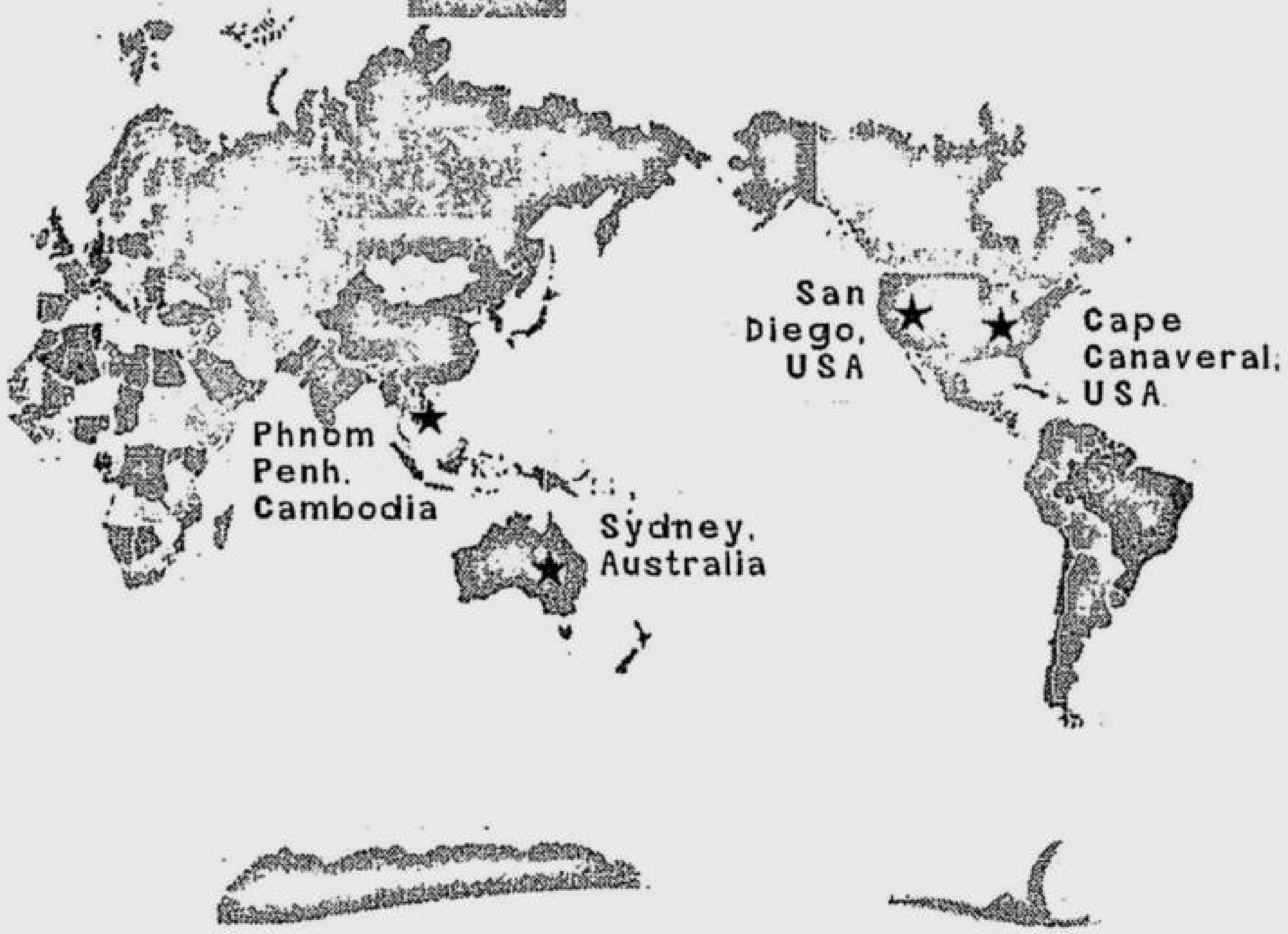


Lindbergh Flies Again

ERIK Lindbergh, grandson of aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh, takes off from San Diego, April 14, for the first leg of his flight to duplicate his grandfather's historic 1927 solo crossing of the Atlantic. Lindbergh, 36, is flying the New Spirit of St. Louis, a state-of-the-art Lancair Columbia 300 equipped with modern communications technology and safety gear. The flight re-creation is part of the 75th anniversary celebration of Charles Lindbergh's cross-Atlantic flight, which began in San Diego, where the original Spirit of St. Louis was built. **_AP_**

Another New Year

A CAMBODIAN woman uses flowers to douse a Buddhist statue with blessed water at the start of traditional New Year celebrations. The Cambodian New Year holiday started April 14 and continued for three days. **_AP_**

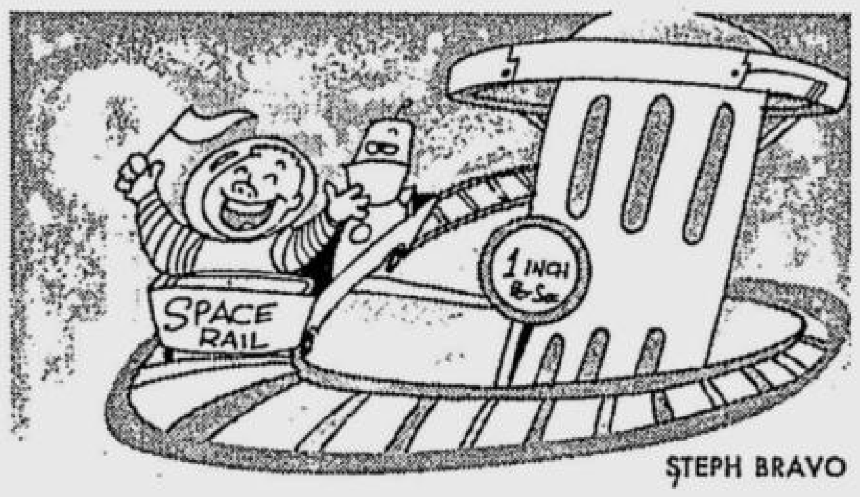
Doggone Cafe

A SMALL Dachshund stands guard over her companion as he sips his pupaccino at Cafe Bones, a cafe for dogs and their owners. Cafe Bones with its specialty, the Pupaccino, a warm soy milk drink with liver sprinkles, draws crowds of dog owners and their canine companions to a large park in Sydney where the dogs can roam without leashes that are required in most city parks. **_AP_**

PUPACCINO BAR

Space Rail

THE FIRST railway in outer space was ready to roll on last week after astronauts from the space shuttle Atlantis prepped it for its inaugural run. The rail car, installed outside the International Space Station on the crew's first spacewalk, will have a top speed of just one inch per second. The rail car is part of the 14-meter-long S-Zero truss, the centerpiece of what is to be a large girder that will support an acre of solar panels generating power for use throughout the space station. The small trolley is designed to roll the station's giant robotic arm from one construction site to another as work progresses on the station over the next several years. **_Reuters_**



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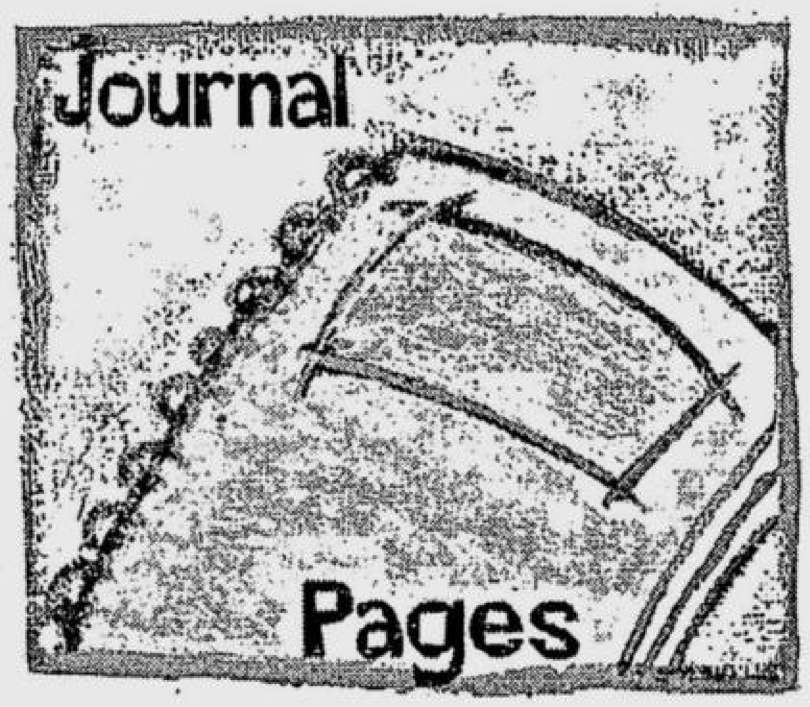


Bye-Bye

By Michaela Corazon C. Sobrepeña
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City

3692 WAYS to SAY BA-BYE!
Syra

IT was the last day of the school year when almost all of us in section Kallaleng cried. Ms Lappay, our Grade 5 homeroom adviser and music teacher made a song for us. She sang "Farewell" on her guitar. Ruth, Chrisha, Jabez, Alyssa, Krisel, and Melissa really cried because they would miss Ms Lappay. After dismissal some of us stayed behind to put a happy ending to the school year. It was while we were eating our lunch that Ruth said goodbye. She would not be returning to Miriam College next year. She was not even going to the good-bye party. I felt sad hearing this.

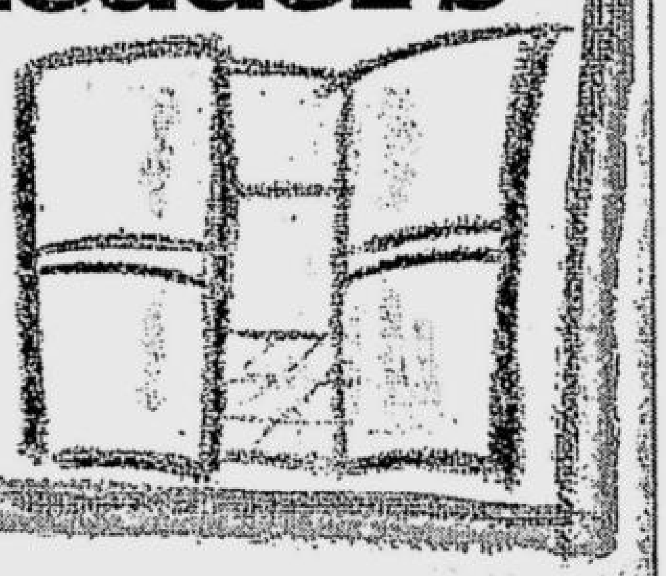
But we were going to have fun that day so after eating our lunch we sprayed each other with water and got all wet. We went to the green bench and played "Sing-Alis" like in the ABS-CBN show. I enjoyed spending time with my classmates.

After the game we quieted down and accepted that maybe we would no longer be classmates next year because we get noisy when we are together. The teachers might separate us, but in each other's heart we would not forget each other and the many happy moments we spent in Grade 5. This school year was one of the best for me ever because of my friends.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



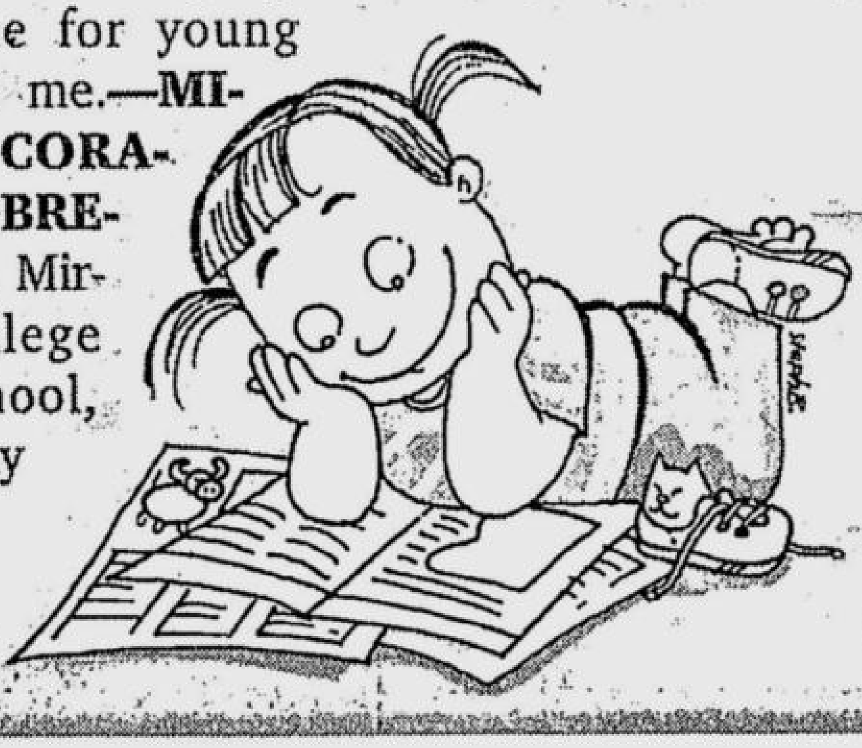
Magnificent Margaux

WAHOO! Boy do we have good news! One of our adult contributors, Maria Georgina Carmel "Margaux" C. Ortiz, is graduating Magna Cum Laude this month at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. Margaux was a Journalism major at the College of Mass Communication and joined JUNIOR INQUIRER *as an intern last year. She's been a regular contributor ever since. Congratulations Margaux! We're very proud of you!*

Thanks, JI!

DEAR Editor,

Hello! I enjoy reading your magazine every week. It is full of interesting topics. Thank you for making a magazine for young people like me.—**MICHAELA CORAZON C. SOBREPEÑA**, 11, Miriam College Grade School, Quezon City



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Eugene and Anina's Challenge

(from page 1)

Adds Eugene, "I learned that in order to write for kids, you must learn to speak their language and recall the things you did and interested you when you were still young."

He shares that two of his children's storybooks, "Misteryo" and "Federico" were based on his childhood experiences.

"Anina ng mga Alon," which will be published in November, is a product of the young professor's interest in the Badjao culture.

"Anina is a 13-year-old Badjao girl who learns the harsh realities her family and friends have to face everyday," says Eugene. "I wish to let the readers see through Anina's eyes how people from different cultures and ethnic minorities get by and live their lives."

Eugene has future plans of writing about other cultures and minority groups in the country. He shares that the Filipino writers' greatest challenge is to be aware of the fact that the Philippines has numerous islands and regions with varied traditions, and there should be a conscious effort to represent all of these in their stories and books.

To aspiring young writers he advises, "Promote the Philippine culture and encourage nationalism in your writings. It is not wrong to take inspiration from foreign authors and books, but think in terms of the next generation and what important aspects of our rich culture you would like them to still cherish."

"And I would really love for children and teenagers to read and talk about it. That would be reward enough for me"

Happy MOTHER'S DAY

Pamper your mom the Cartoon Network way!

To show us how much you love your mom just send in your dedications and we'll not only put them on-air, you could also win your mom a **"beauty treatment"** and **loads of prizes** for yourself. For details, tune in to Cartoon Network.

* Promotion runs til May 3, 2002.

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My favorite Color
Party Shapes
Gardening time!
Computer time!

"What's New with Blue"

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April 15 - May 31

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1312 Series of 2002

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FOR or By KIDS

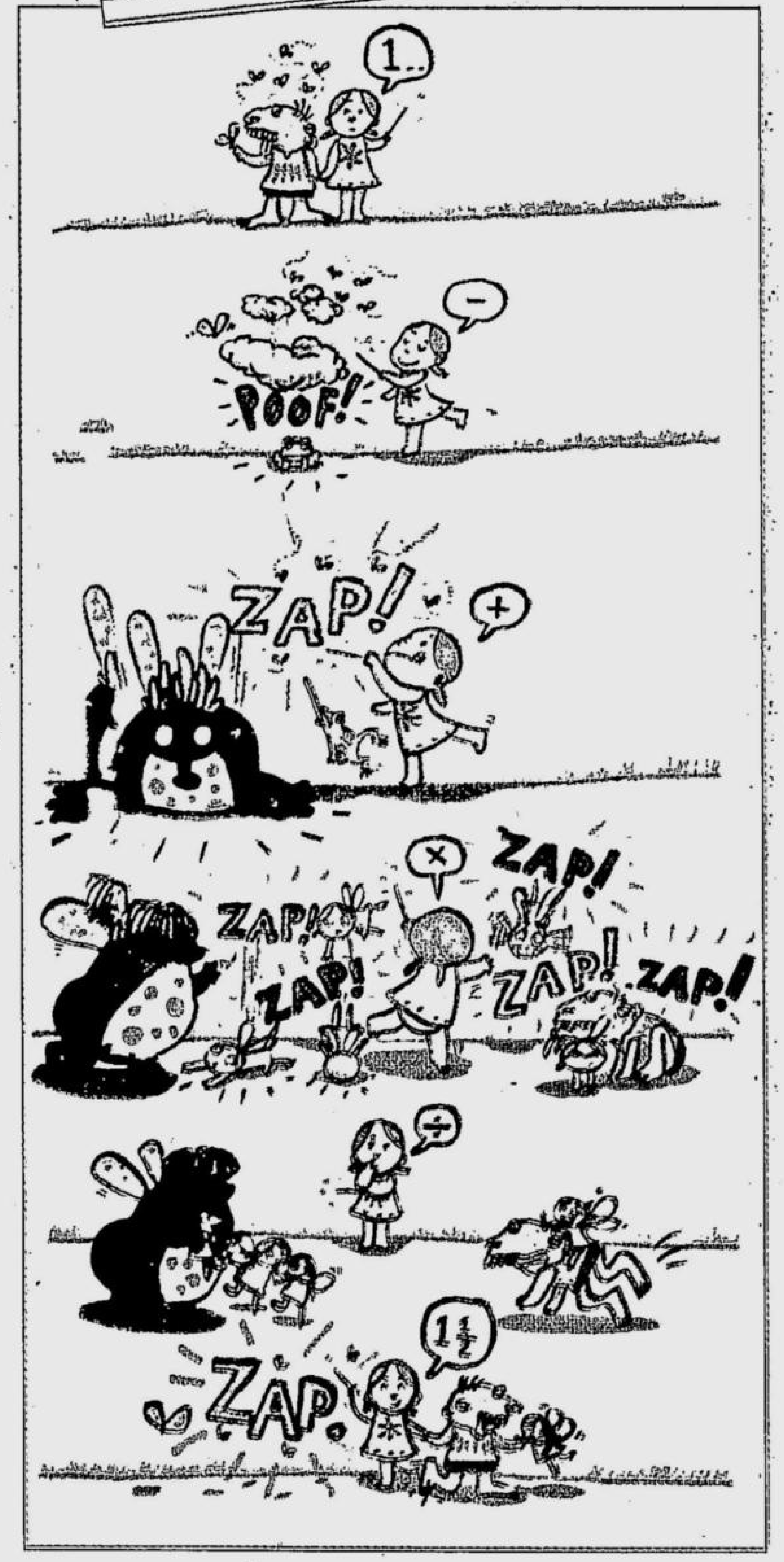
3 Poems From ISM

Illustrations by
Jason Moss

Jason
is of Scottish descent.
He is a full-time
book illustrator
and painter.
You can find
Jason Moss' work
at all leading bookstores.
Email
jasonmoss@hotmail.com

Friendship

By Antheia Rae


1..
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POOF!
ZAP!
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ZAP!
ZAP!
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ZAP.

Friendship is like math
Subtraction is losing
a good friend
Addition is getting one new
friend to play with
Multiplication is seeing
how many secrets
you've kept
Division is sorting out
friends from foe
Fractions will tell who are
true friends and those
who aren't.

***Antheia**, 10, is half-Canadian and half-Chinese and lived in Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur and Canada, before coming to Manila. She loves to bike and rollerblade with her dad, and go swimming. She studies at International School Manila.*

A S

By N

***Mandy** loves math, reading*
to concerts. Books make her
She was born in China but
She studies at International

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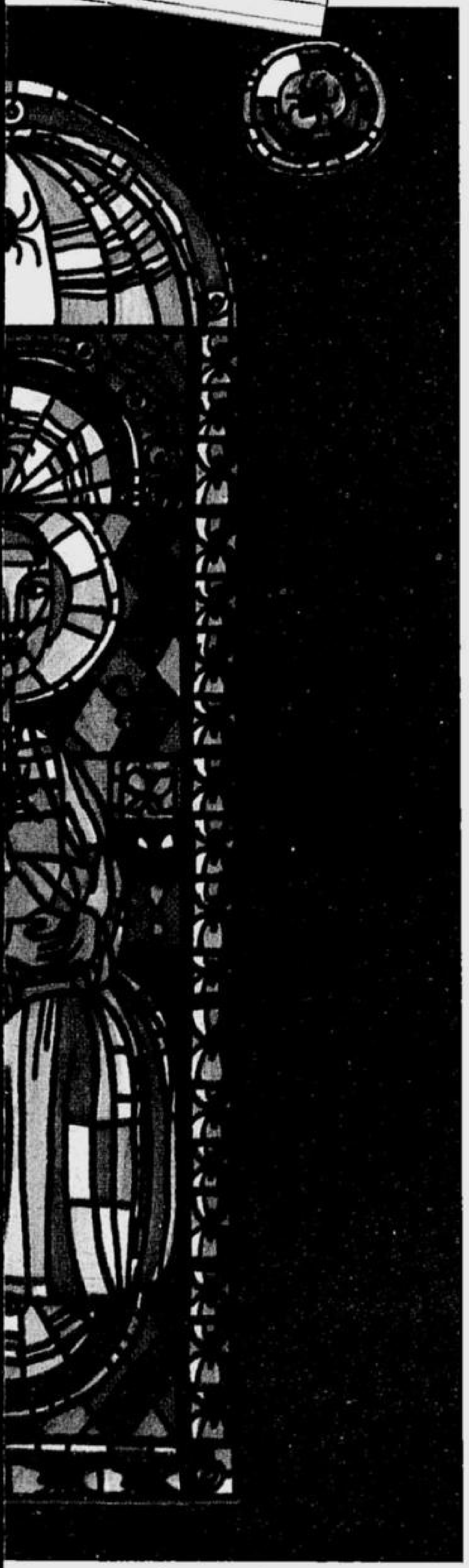
pider's Prayer

Mandy Zhou



Lord,
I find it simply unfair
I don't even get to see
my children
To make sure that
they're okay
For I die before they hatch.

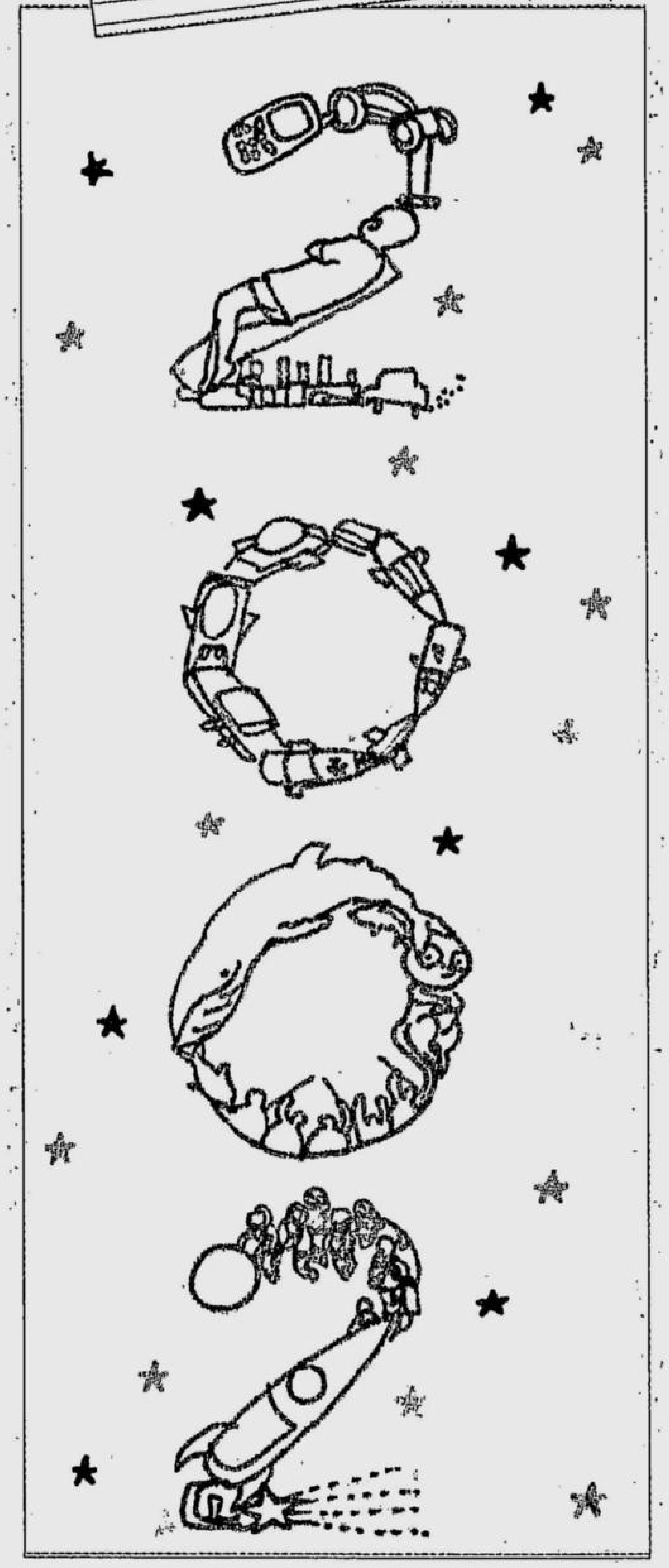
And why do I have to wear
Black, brown, or gray?
Forgive me,
but wouldn't I be
So much more glamorous
If I were blue, green,
or yellow?

Still I am thankful
For a great many things
Eight legs helpful as I crawl
Over my web,
Useful for catching flies
and insects
My many eyes
for good eyesight,
My looks improved
By a pair of pincers
on my head.
Amen.

writing, playing the piano and going
forget what is happening in real life.
ived in the Philippines most of her life.
School Manila.

2002

By Nishanth Parameswaran



A year of technology,
A year of poverty,
Lots of pollution,
Maybe a solution.

Flying cars,
Nuclear wars,
No more animals,
Maybe cannibals.

Expedition to Mars,
Traveling to unknown
destinations near and far,
A year to look forward to,
And yet, a year not to—
2002

***Nishanth** loves to write, enjoys board games like Scrabble, Boggle, and Monopoly and science fiction and funny stories. His favorite books are "The Time Machine" by H.G. Wells and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl.*

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The Columbus Inside Him

Sixteen-year-old Lephargy Gellena writes and learns his way from adventure to adventure

By Mae Astrid Tobias

Kids 'r'rific

HIS name is an adventure in itself. Lephargy. Short for Leoncio, Editha, Parencia, Azatona, Rodrigo, and Graciano. Parents and grandparents. So many stories in one name.

But 16-year-old Lephargy Gellena has his own stories to tell and own adventures to experience.

Last year, Lephargy was selected to serve as editor-in-chief of "No Limits," a newsletter published quarterly by Probe Media Foundation Inc. and the Manila office of the United Nations Children's' Fund.

Since then, Lephargy has covered exciting events for "No Limits" like the Unicef "Speak your mind" campaign. He got to interview pop star Gary Valenciano and Dr. Terrel Hill, Unicef's top man in the Philippines!

Lephargy says that he has always been interested in reading and writing. He even keeps a small collection of National Geographic Magazine and Readers Digest, which sometimes he reads aloud when he is alone in his room.

"When I'm depressed, I read," he says. " When I'm happy, I read. When I listen to music, eat ice cream, I read."

An Explorer Inside

Lephargy's interest in exploring and learning new things is not limited only to the things he reads.

"I'm an explorer, in my own right," he confesses. "And I think everyone has a (Christopher) Columbus inside him," he says, referring to the Spanish navigator and explorer famed for discovering America in the 15th century.

One of the craziest things he has done in the name of adventure he narrates was to head for Samar on his own.

You Learn Something New

When he was still in 6th grade, his grandmother was going to celebrate her 60th birthday but both his parents were unavailable to attend the celebrations. Not wanting the celebrations to pass without a representative from his family, Lephargy himself packed his bags and tried to book a flight to Samar. Good thing, his mom caught him making the call, so she helped him get the ticket.

His Samar adventures led to a lot of discovery for Lephargy. He remembers how he slipped on carabao dung on his first day, picked freshly laid chicken eggs, milked a cow and led a whole procession, holding a large cross.

Coming home from Samar, Lephargy realized that he needs to learn Waray. And this was on top of a whole bunch of other things to learn. So expect to see this young writer spelunking, bungee jumping and rappelling his way to more adventures.

YOUNG JOURNALIST. Lephargy's exciting assignments include interviewing Gary Valenciano and a top Unicef official.

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________________
____

Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
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____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at ______________________
____
____

and studies at ______________________
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name: ______________________
____

Sender's Age & School: ______________________
____

Sender's Address: ______________________
____

Sender's Contact No. ______________________
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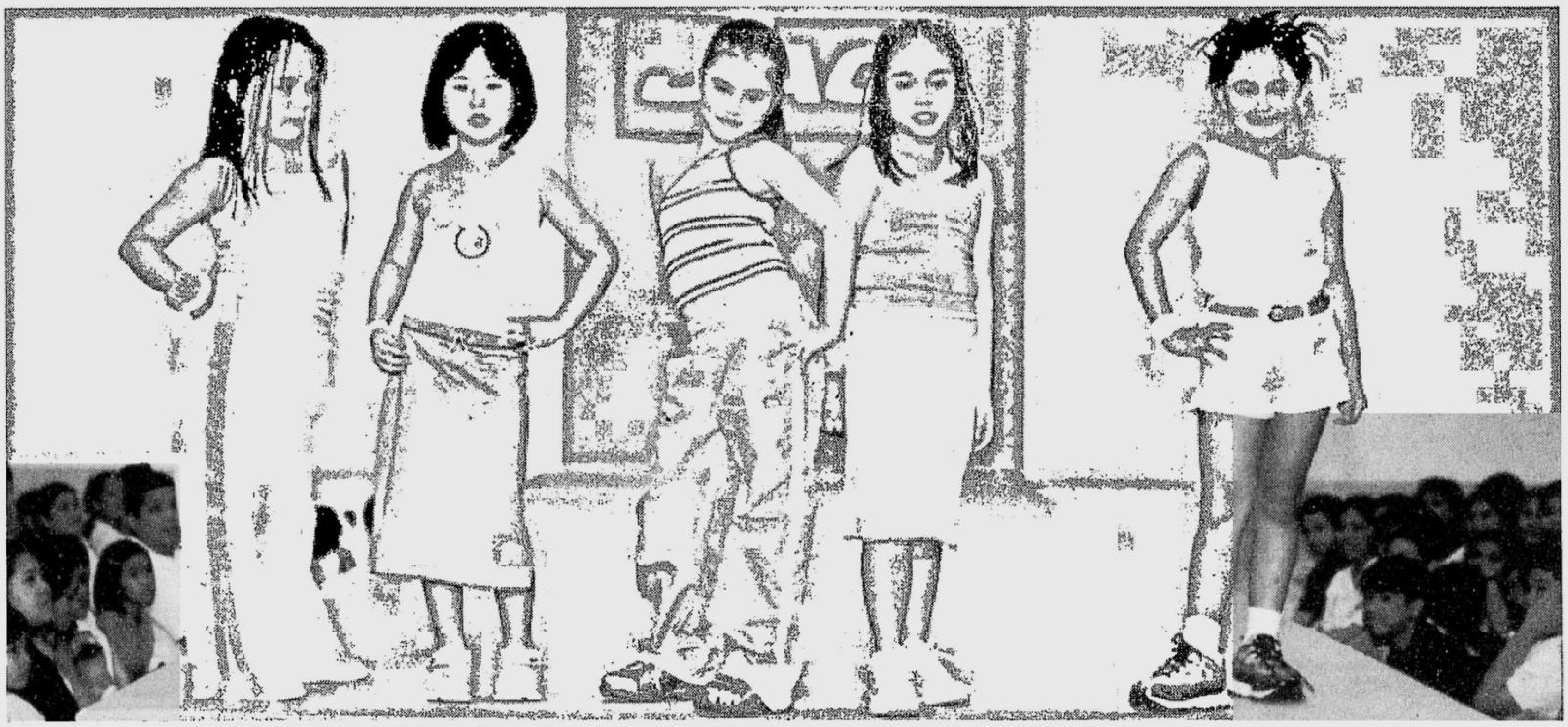


LIGHT AND PERKY. Cool aqua blue and lemony yellow are the colors for a trip to the beach. . .or just about any dressy day with your gal pals.

Photos by JOAN BONDOC

Jag Jet-setters!

Kids Invade the Runway . . .Jag Style!

By Catherine Joan E. Dolendo
JI Correspondent
Woodrose Paref School

CHECK out the kids of Jag who modeled their way through the ramp and flashed their pearly whites at the cameras in a happening event of Jag's Kid's Fashion Fare on April 7 at the Glorietta Activity Center. There were almost 80 fresh faces in the fashion show from ages 2 to 13. The executive producer was Audie Espino and the show was directed by Joey A. Espino Jr. There were booths giving out free food for the people watching the fashion show.

The entertaining and talented youngsters of our generation grabbed the crowd's eyes to show their sleek dance moves while sashaying on the catwalk. They practiced almost for a week for this one-hour show and proved what it takes to be models.

"I would describe a model by how she carries herself," says one of them, Theresa Santos from Lourdes School. "It was tiring since it was my first time, but I also had fun and learned how to maintain a good posture," she continues.

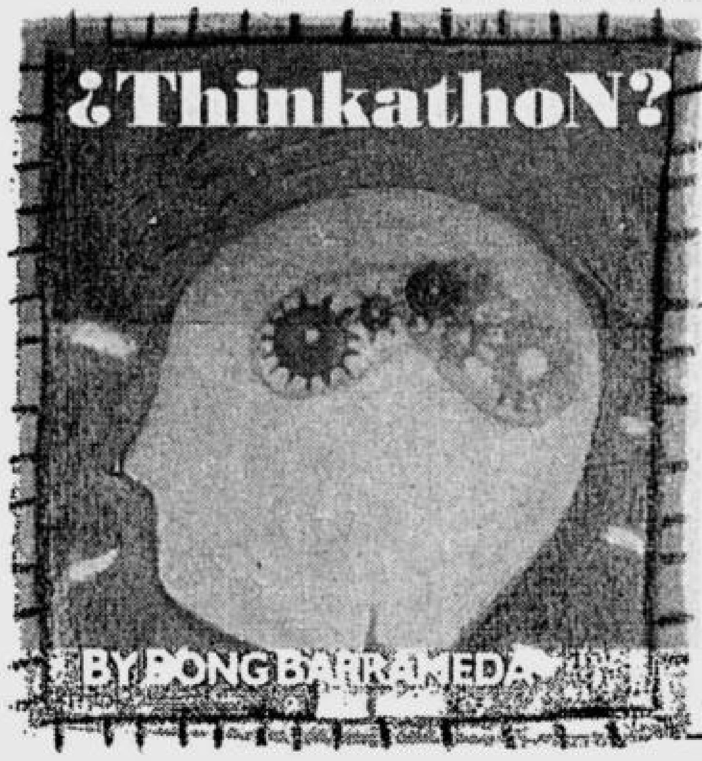
***KUYA'S* COOL. There's no reason to hide when *kuya's* absolutely smashing in a sporty outfit.**

From the summer outfits to the party getups everyone looked hip and radical! The finale was the best part of the show, where in every one of the models danced for the fun of it. That scene was such a grabber. Balloons of red and white started falling from above and party poppers started blowing in surprise!

Everyone started stepping, beating, sitting and popping the balloons after finding out the surprise it contains. There were stubs inside for you to surrender to claim prizes at the booth. The cute lil' kids of Jag's Fashion Show wearing the eye-catching getups of Jag's Summer Collection 2002 had the looks and showed what's in, what's hot, and what's not! So grab your jag and brag about it!

Jag/p.11

SHORT TAKES. It's the season for shorts and here are nine ways to wear them.


¿ThinkathoN?

BY DONG BARRAMEDA

For Christ's Sake

1. What was the original Hebrew name of Jesus?
   - Joshua
   - Josephus
   - Jonas

2. "Christ" is actually a title which means what?
   - "God"
   - "Anointed One"
   - "Saviour"

3. In what region was Jesus born (between 8 and 4 B.C., according to most scholars)?
   - Judea
   - Palestine
   - Nazareth

4. What language did Jesus speak?
   - Hebrew
   - Greek
   - Aramaic

5. How many Disciples did Jesus have?
   - 10
   - 12
   - 15

6. According Jesus, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall..."
   - "see God"
   - "be comforted"
   - "inherit the earth"

7. What is the literal meaning of Calvary, the hill where Jesus was crucified?
   - "suffering"
   - "skull"
   - "mystery"

8. Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot for how many pieces of silver?
   - 10
   - 20
   - 30

9. Who carried Jesus' cross on the way to his crucifixion?
   - Simon Peter
   - Barabbas
   - Simon of Cyrene

10. Who was the first to see Jesus after his Resurrection?
    - Mother Mary
    - Mary Magdalene
    - St. John

11. According to most Bible authorities, at what age did Jesus die?
    - 30
    - 33
    - 36

12. At what place did Jesus ascend into the heavens 40 days after the Resurrection?
    - Bethany
    - Golgotha
    - Bethlehem

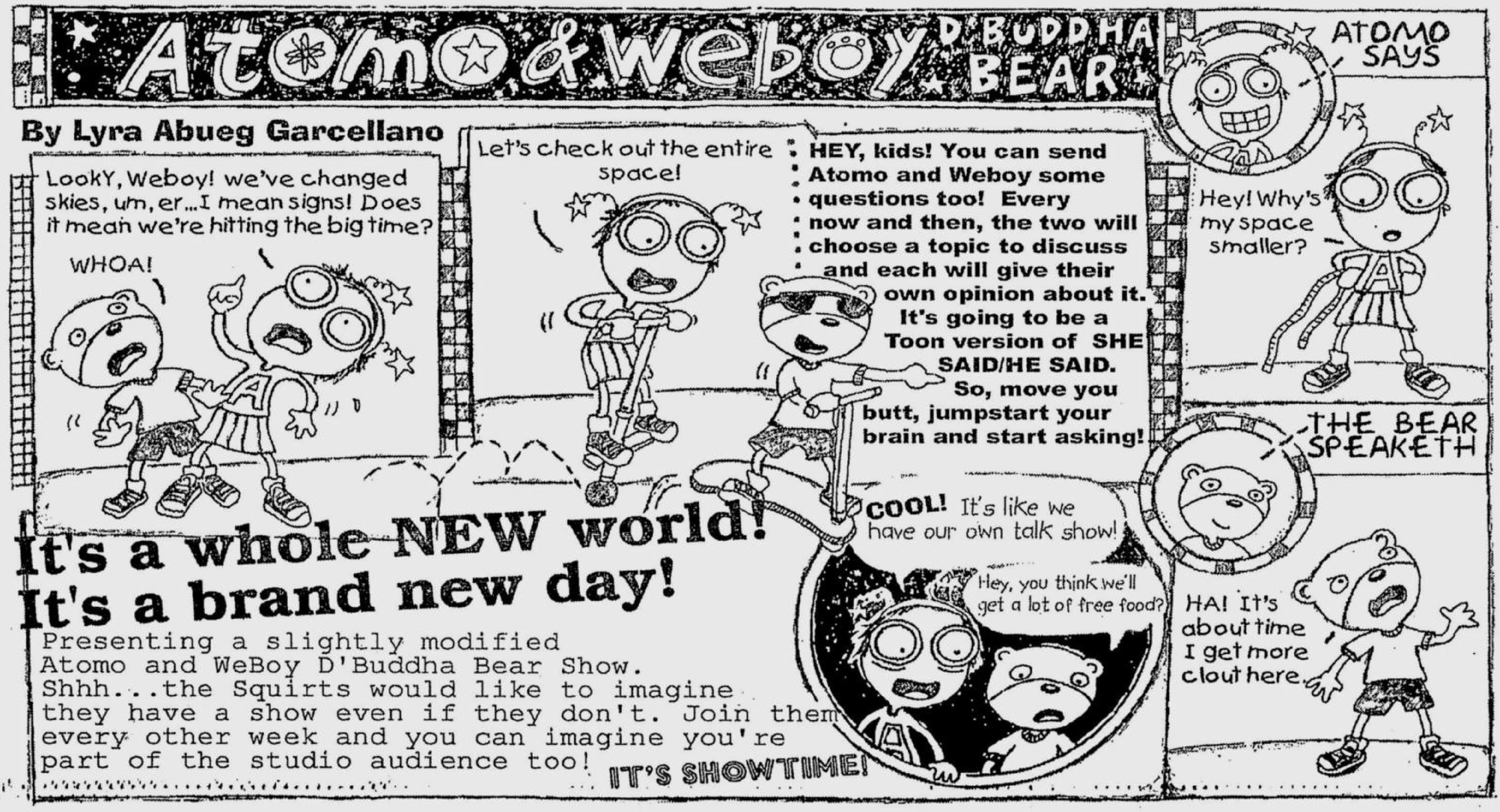
Answers :

1. Joshua
2. "Anointed One"
3. Judea
4. Aramaic
5. 12
6. "see God"
7. "skull"
8. 30
9. Simon of Cyrene
10. Mary Magdalene
11. 33
12. Bethany

Ratings :

superbrain!	excellent!	good!
11-2	8 - 10	5 - 9

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

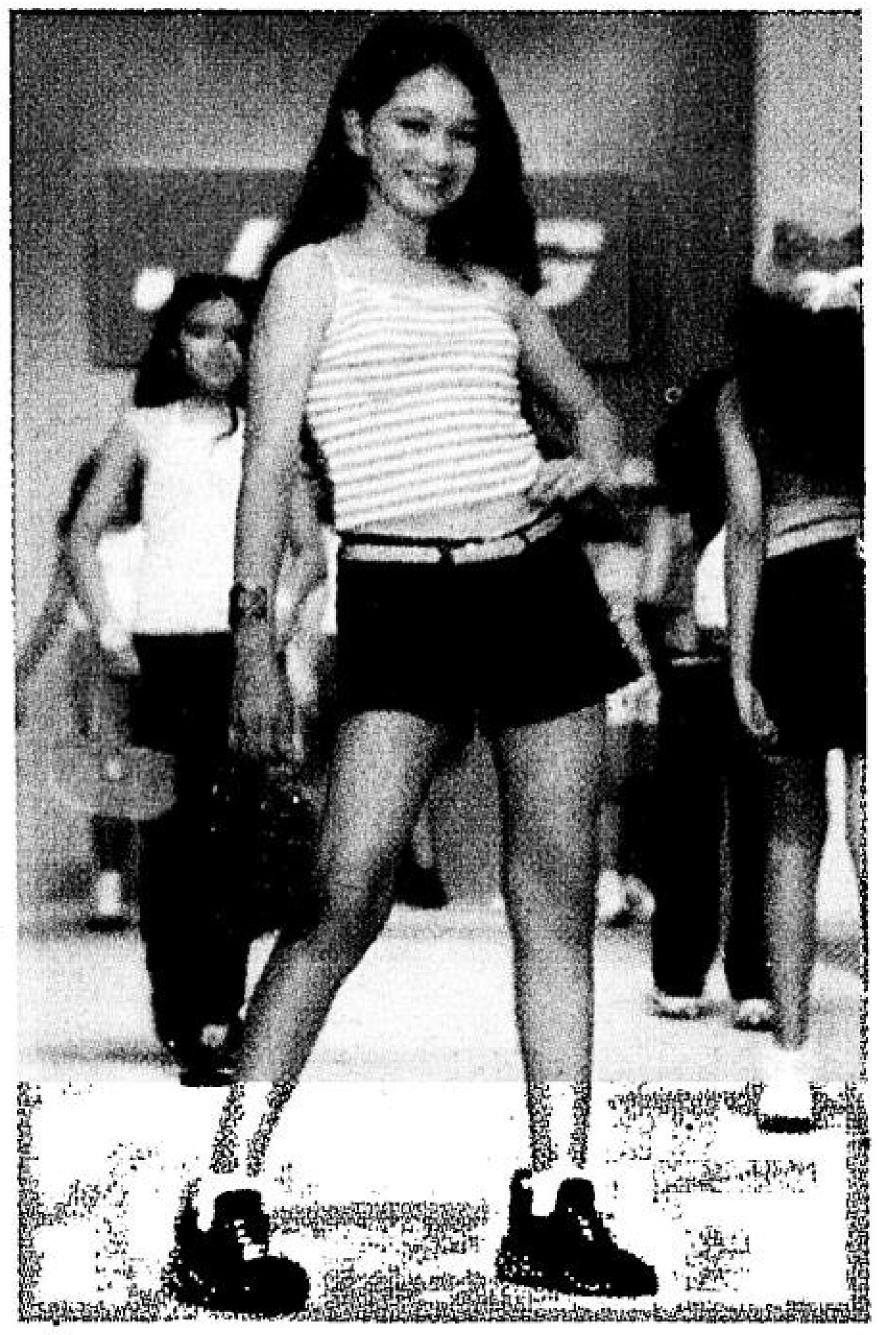

Atomo & Weboy D'BUDDHA BEAR
ATOMO SAYS
LookY, Weboy! we've changed skies, um, er...I mean signs! Does it mean we're hitting the big time?
WHOA!
Let's check out the entire space!
Hey! Why's my space smaller?
THE BEAR SPEAKETH
COOL! It's like we have our own talk show!
Hey, you think we'll get a lot of free food?
HA! It's about time I get more clout here.
IT'S SHOWTIME!

HEY, kids! You can send Atomo and Weboy some questions too! Every now and then, the two will choose a topic to discuss and each will give their own opinion about it. It's going to be a Toon version of SHE SAID/HE SAID. So, move you butt, jumpstart your brain and start asking!

It's a whole NEW world! It's a brand new day!

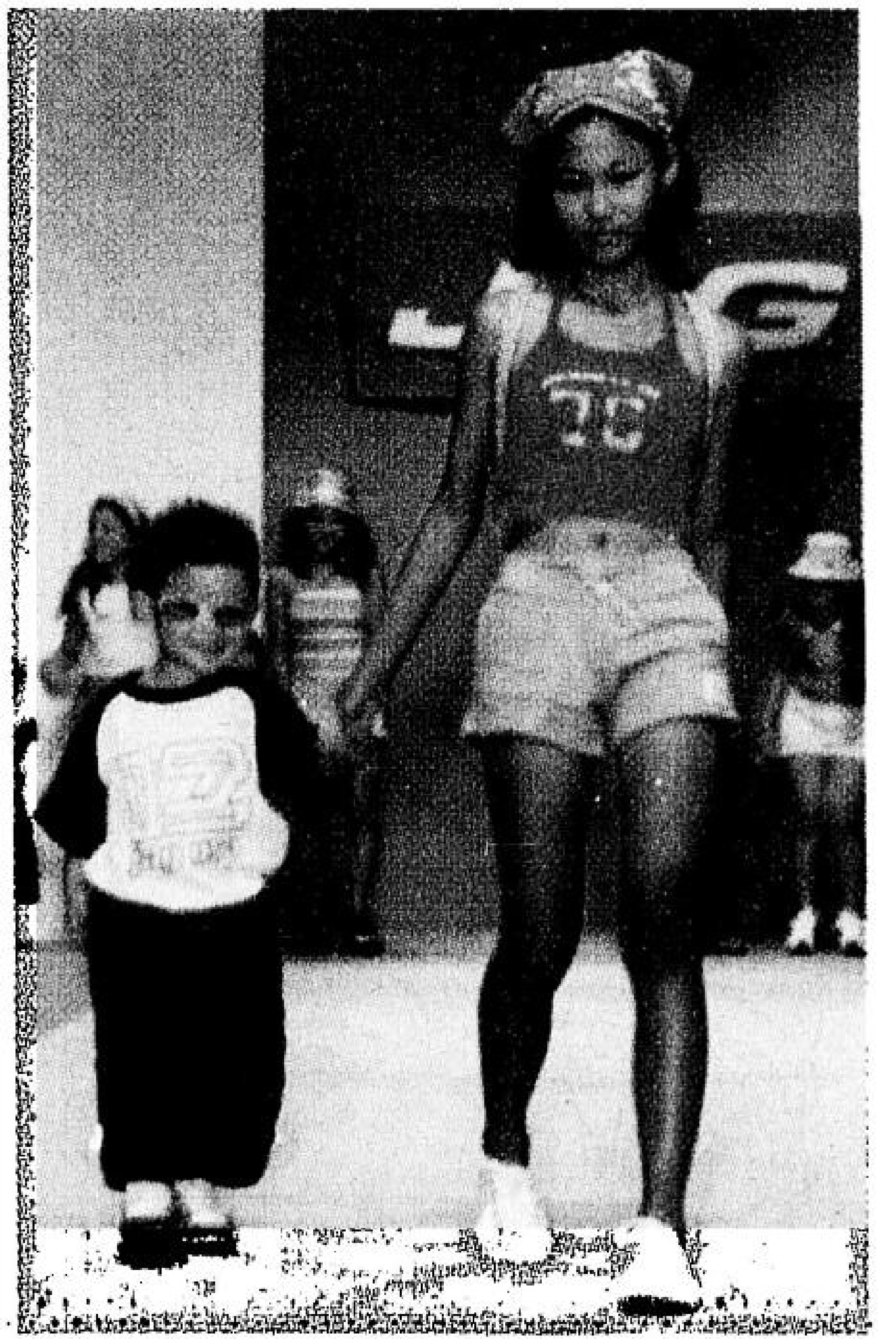
Presenting a slightly modified Atomo and WeBoy D'Buddha Bear Show. Shhh...the Squirts would like to imagine they have a show even if they don't. Join them every other week and you can imagine you're part of the studio audience too!

SEEING RED. Summer's hot and sweaty. But that doesn't mean you can't wear red. Perfect for a Sunday evening visit to *Lolo* and *Lola*'s house.



PRETTY IN PINK. And in stripes too. This outfit is downright comfy and the best for wearing during those summer workshop classes Mom has been at you to attend.

Photos by JOAN BONDOC



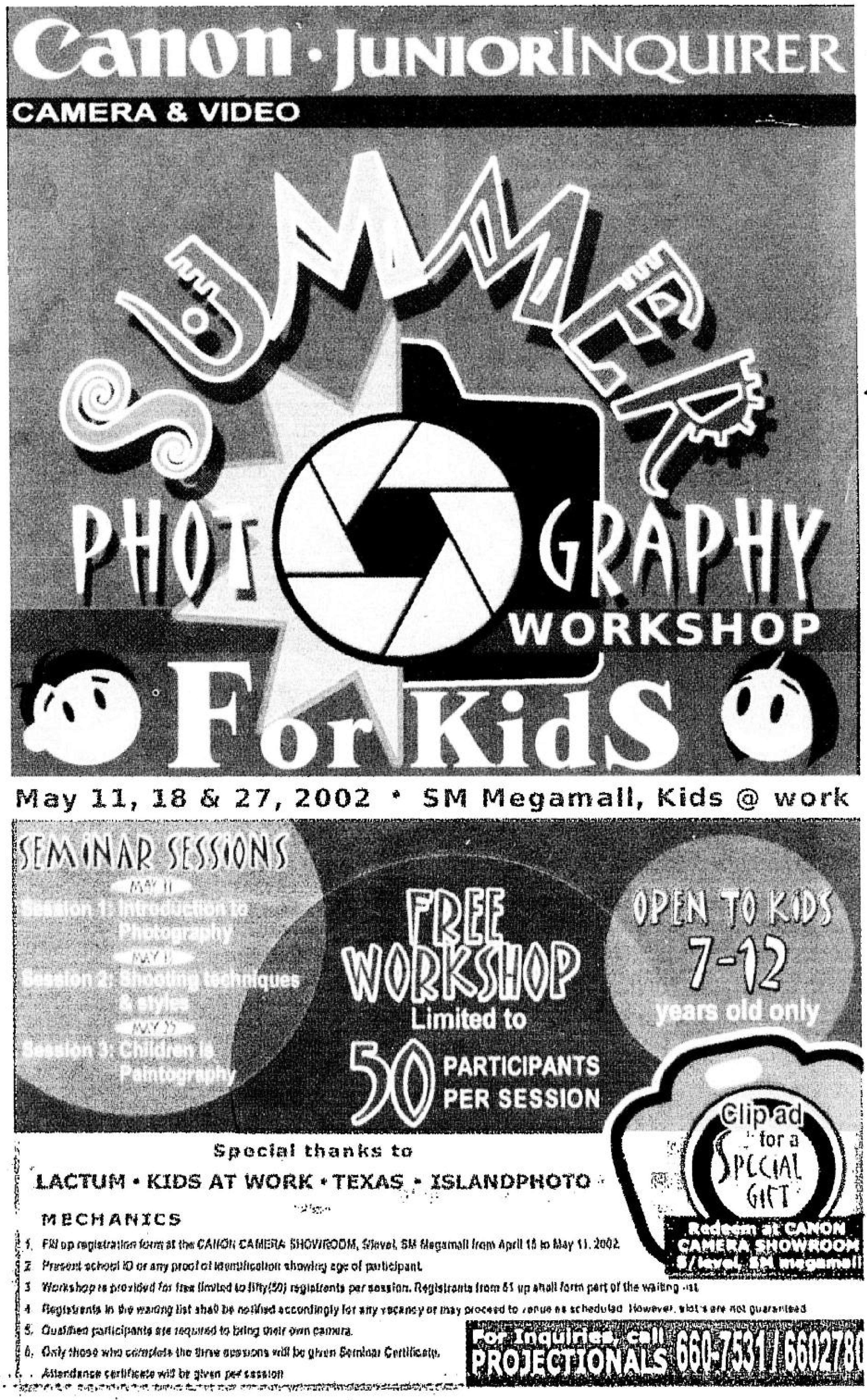
TERRIFIC TOT. Hey, if he's this cute at that age, wonder how he'll be like when he's older.. Probably as stylish as *ate*.

Jag

(from page 9)

eryone looked hip and radical! The finale was the best part of the show, where in every one of the models danced for the fun of it. That scene was such a grabber. Balloons of red and white started falling from above and party poppers started blowing in surprise!

Everyone started stepping, beating, sitting and popping the balloons after finding out the surprise it contains. There were stubs inside for you to surrender to claim prizes at the booth. The cute lil' kids of Jag's Fashion Show wearing the eye-catching getups of Jag's Summer Collection 2002 had the looks and showed what's in, what's hot, and what's not! So grab your jag and brag about it!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CAMERA & VIDEO
SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP For KidS
May 11, 18 & 27, 2002 • SM Megamall, Kids @ work

SEMINAR SESSIONS
MAY 11
Session 1: Introduction to Photography
MAY 18
Session 2: Shooting techniques & styles
MAY 25
Session 3: Children is Paintography

FREE WORKSHOP
Limited to 50 PARTICIPANTS PER SESSION

OPEN TO KIDS 7-12 years old only

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Redeem at CANON CAMERA SHOWROOM 5/level, SM megamall

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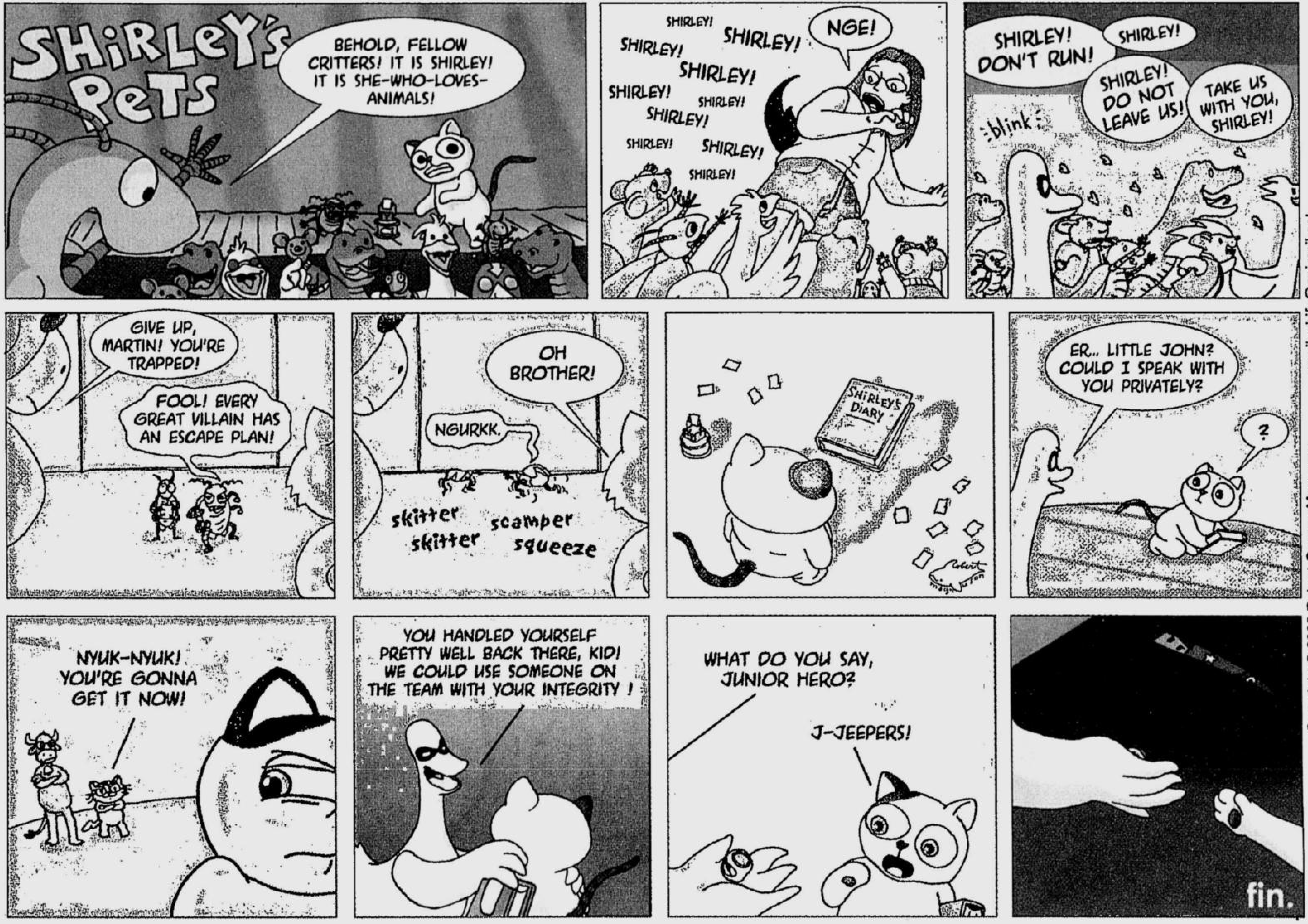
MECHANICS
1. Fill up registration form at the CANON CAMERA SHOWROOM, 5/level, SM Megamall from April 15 to May 11, 2002
2. Present school ID or any proof of identification showing age of participant.
3. Workshop is provided for free limited to fifty(50) registrants per session. Registrants from 51 up shall form part of the waiting list.
4. Registrants in the waiting list shall be notified accordingly for any vacancy or may proceed to venue as scheduled. However, slots are not guaranteed.
5. Qualified participants are required to bring their own camera.
6. Only those who complete the three sessions will be given Seminar Certificate.
7. Attendance certificate will be given per session

For inquiries, call PROJECTIONALS 660-7531 / 660278


SHIRLEY'S PETS
BEHOLD, FELLOW CRITTERS! IT IS SHIRLEY! IT IS SHE-WHO-LOVES-ANIMALS!
SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY! SHIRLEY!
NGE!
SHIRLEY! DON'T RUN!
SHIRLEY!
SHIRLEY! DO NOT LEAVE US!
TAKE US WITH YOU, SHIRLEY!
:blink:
GIVE UP, MARTIN! YOU'RE TRAPPED!
FOOL! EVERY GREAT VILLAIN HAS AN ESCAPE PLAN!
OH BROTHER!
NGURKK.
skitter skitter scamper squeeze
SHIRLEY'S DIARY
ER... LITTLE JOHN? COULD I SPEAK WITH YOU PRIVATELY?
?
NYUK-NYUK! YOU'RE GONNA GET IT NOW!
YOU HANDLED YOURSELF PRETTY WELL BACK THERE, KID! WE COULD USE SOMEONE ON THE TEAM WITH YOUR INTEGRITY!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, JUNIOR HERO?
J-JEEPERS!
fin.

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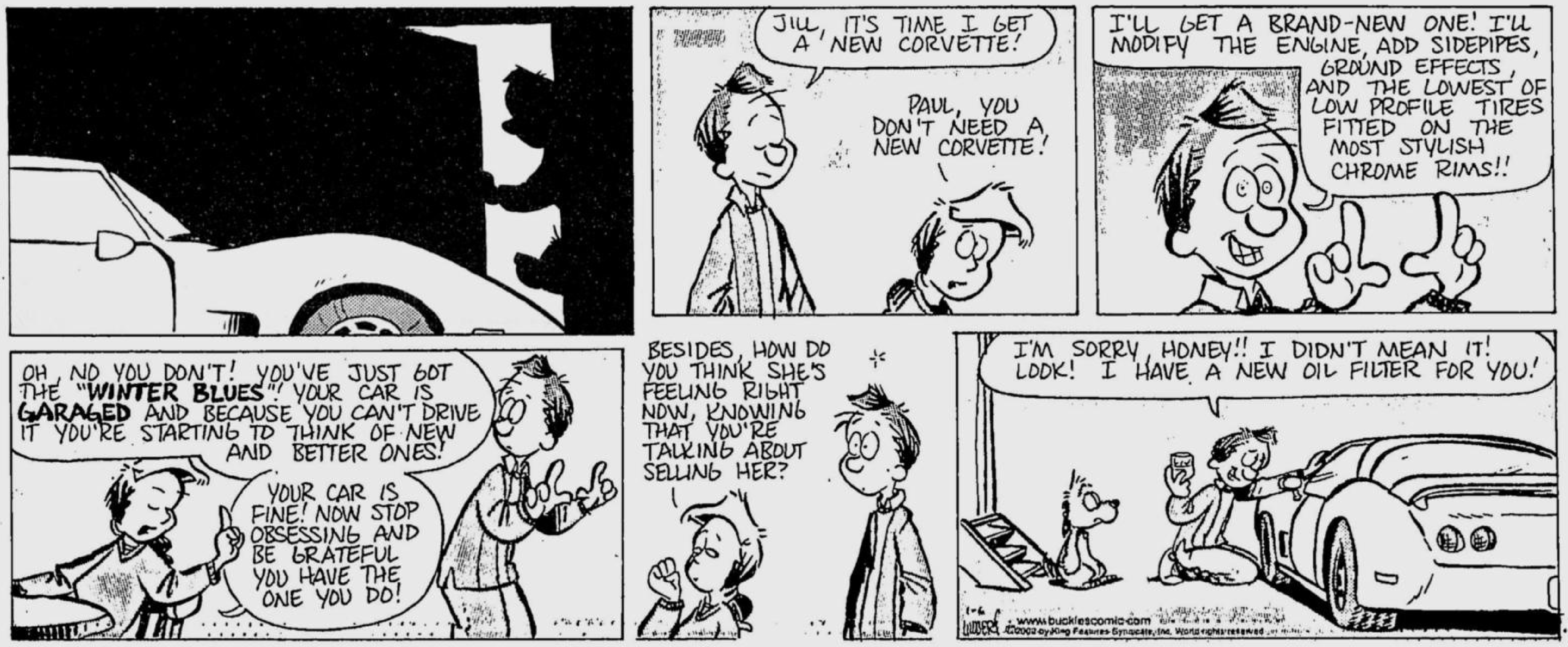
email: shifu@animail.net

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


JILL, IT'S TIME I GET A NEW CORVETTE!
PAUL, YOU DON'T NEED A NEW CORVETTE!
I'LL GET A BRAND-NEW ONE! I'LL MODIFY THE ENGINE, ADD SIDEPIPES, GROUND EFFECTS, AND THE LOWEST OF LOW PROFILE TIRES FITTED ON THE MOST STYLISH CHROME RIMS!!
OH, NO YOU DON'T! YOU'VE JUST GOT THE "WINTER BLUES"! YOUR CAR IS GARAGED AND BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DRIVE IT YOU'RE STARTING TO THINK OF NEW AND BETTER ONES!
YOUR CAR IS FINE! NOW STOP OBSESSING AND BE GRATEFUL YOU HAVE THE ONE YOU DO!
BESIDES, HOW DO YOU THINK SHE'S FEELING RIGHT NOW, KNOWING THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SELLING HER?
I'M SORRY, HONEY!! I DIDN'T MEAN IT! LOOK! I HAVE A NEW OIL FILTER FOR YOU!
1-6
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